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Kohl, Craxi urge U.S.-Soviet talks

STRESA, Italy (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi Wednesday made a joint call for a resumption of arms talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. "We feel there is an urgent need to speed up peace initiatives between the two nations so that 1985 can be a year of negotiations," Mr. Craxi said at a joint news conference after the two leaders met for routine bilateral talks in this Italian lakeside resort. Dr. Kohl said he intends to impress upon President Reagan when he goes to Washington this month that there is a need for a speedy revival of U.S.-Soviet dialogue. "I think that after Reagan's strong electoral mandate the time is ripe to act quickly," he said, adding, "I intend to speak intensively with him about this issue and I am very pleased that Italy is backing us in this course of action."

Lebanon to continue Naqoura talks after Israel frees Amal men

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon Wednesday announced the resumption of troop withdrawal talks with Israel after the Israelis agreed to free Shi'ite Muslim leaders seized in South Lebanon when the talks began last week.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami told reporters after a cabinet meeting the talks would resume Thursday, five days after Lebanon suspended them until the four senior officials of the Shi'ite movement Amal were freed. Three of the four men were Wednesday in Sidon, South Lebanon's main city where they were seized last Thursday. Amal sources in Beirut said the fourth would be freed Thursday under a compromise agreement brokered by American and United Nations envoys.

One of the released men told Reuters reporter Nazih Mustafa in Sidon he had been mistreated by the Israelis in detention.

Milhem Qansouh, a lawyer and Amal information officer in South Lebanon, said the four men had been shooed with rifle butts by Israeli troops forcing them to board a truck.

Mr. Qansouh said the four men had been questioned separately for six consecutive hours and "mistreated" during that time. He said they were held first at an Israeli interrogation centre at Mar Elias, east of Sidon, and then at an unidentified location. The Amal source said the fourth man, Mahmoud Faghih who is a member of the movement's national politburo and its president for South Lebanon, would be freed either during or after Thursday's session of the troop withdrawal talks.

Announcing the restart of the talks, Mr. Karami said Lebanon had taken a stand after Israel's seizure of the four Amal political officers "to affirm that we cannot accept anything such as pressure and blackmail."

"We suspended the negotiations to achieve certain steps which had to be taken, and as a result of contacts agreement was reached on this and accordingly the talks will be resumed tomorrow," Mr. Karami said.

Israeli agents seized the four men on Nov. 8 during the first session of the troop withdrawal talks at the Lebanese border town of Naqoura. Lebanon demanded their release and announced suspension of the talks two days later.

Thursday's session is scheduled as the first substantive round of talks on "security arrangements" in South Lebanon prior to an Israeli withdrawal.

Talks are expected to be long and tough, and Amal leader Nabih Berri, who is minister of state for South Lebanon, has said Lebanon will demand the release of hundreds of southerners detained by Israel without legal process as soon as they resume.

Mr. Berri was the driving force behind Lebanon's refusal to continue negotiating until the Israelis agreed to free the four members of his Amal movement.

During negotiations for their release, he told Reuters Amal would not heed demands by Israeli officials to stop resistance attacks on its troops during the talks. He pledged to continue the almost daily attacks "until the last (Israeli) soldier leaves my country."

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy shuttled between Israel, Beirut and Damascus to work out the compromise. U.N. Envoy Jean-Claude Aimee was also involved.

In another step to prepare for a takeover in the south, Mr. Karami said the Muslim-Christian cabinet had empowered the army to take over the coast road between Beirut and Israel's Awali River lines 40 kilometres south.

It would also take over the Iklim Al Kharrub region north of Israeli lines, where rival militias confront each other, to prevent fighting when the Israelis leave.

Factional leaders have already agreed in principle to a move south by a confessionally-mixed army force through areas held by their militias.

Mr. Karami said the cabinet also agreed on full army takeovers of Beirut and the northern part of Tripoli and total withdrawal of militias still evident in both cities.

The army would simultaneously move north to take over the Christian-dominated coastal highway between Tripoli and Beirut. The cabinet also appointed Druze Brigadier Mahmoud Tay Abu Darham as army chief of staff. His predecessor was killed in an air crash in August.



Jordan celebrates Hussein's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday marked the 49th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein with nationwide celebrations and important events highlighting some of the achievements of the Kingdom has witnessed during the King's reign.

In Amman Minister of Communications Mohammad Adoub Al Zabeh, deputising for Her Highness Princess Alia, officially opened a week-long exhibition of Jordanian postage stamps and rare collections and 118 collections of Chinese stamps at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The Department of Antiquities opened museums and archaeological sites for all citizens free of charge, while Radio Jordan and Jordan Television prepared special programmes featuring King Hussein's life and the developments Jordan has witnessed during his rule.

In Irbid a large number of people from all sectors organised a march which toured the streets of the city, starting from Irbid Municipality Stadium. The Armed Forces musical troupe headed the march while marchers, holding Jordanian banners and flags, chanted national songs and performed dabke dances. Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin opened an Islamic book exhibition and a children's garden in the eastern part of Irbid as part of the city's celebrations.

New gas turbine units inaugurated near Amman, page 3

'Resumption imminent of U.S.-Iraqi diplomatic ties'

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and the United States are expected to announce the restoration of diplomatic ties, broken by Baghdad over the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, at any moment, authoritative sources said Wednesday.

They said Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was due to leave for the United States Thursday for talks with Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and possibly President Reagan.

"Restoration of ties between the two countries will surely be announced before or during Aziz's visit to the U.S.," one source said.

Western diplomats in Baghdad said last month that prospects for a resumption of ties between the United States and Iraq, which has close links with the Soviet Union, had been discussed in New York by Mr. Aziz and Mr. Shultz.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein later told the Lebanon's Al Watan Al Arabi magazine: "We are going to study Iraqi-American relations after the (U.S. Nov. 6) elections."

Bilateral relations have improved steadily over the past few years and the United States Information Service recently reopened its Baghdad office.

Diplomatic affairs are currently handled by a U.S. interests section at the Belgian embassy.

Space shuttle astronauts retrieve second satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The astronauts of the space shuttle Discovery Wednesday recovered a second wayward satellite.

Astronaut Dale Gardner "speared" the Westar satellite by thrusting the tip of a grapple device into an exhaust nozzle. He then guided the satellite back to the cargo bay to stow it for the return to Earth.

Strapped into a jet backpack, Gardner floated over to the satellite as the sun rose over the edge of the Earth about 350 kilometres below.

He waited until he was shielded from the sun's glare by the shuttle's shadow, then slid the two-metre long "stinger" of the grapple attachment into the satellite's exhaust nozzle.

Gardner triggered the stinger's clamp device, then began slowly rotating with the satellite as the clamp gripped the inside of the exhaust tube.

After tightening the grip with a ratchet, he stopped the rotation with a burst of his jets.

Fateh prepares for PNC session despite opposition

By Lamis K. Andoni and Hamadeh Faraaneh Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Fateh, the biggest commando movement within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is going ahead with preparations to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman on Nov. 22 despite mounting opposition by other Palestinian factions.

Fateh officials told the Jordan Times Wednesday that invitations, signed by the PNC's deputy speaker, Addeb Za'anoun, have already been sent out to PNC members and five Amman hotels have been reserved for those who would attend the council session.

The Damascus-based speaker of the PNC, Khaled Al Fahoum, however, strongly criticised his deputy's action, describing it as "illegal." In an interview with the state-run Damascus Radio, Mr. Fahoum said Mr. Za'anoun, who is a member of the Central Committee of Fateh, had "no right to convene the PNC." The speaker of the PNC is the only authorised official to call the council to session, Mr. Fahoum said.

Questioning the legality of the planned session, "An invitation by one faction is not valid," he said, adding that in the event of failure on the PNC speaker's part to call the council to meet, the PLO Executive Committee, the PNC Praesidium or the general secretaries of all the factions are the only parties authorised to do so.

The most harsh criticism of Fateh's decision to convene the PNC in Amman on Nov. 22 came from Syrian-backed rebels within the movement, who are demanding the resignation of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat before the council is called to session.

The rebels also threatened to convene another meeting parallel to the PNC session planned to be held here.

Colonel Saeed Musa (Abu Musa) told a press conference in north Lebanon Tuesday that he will call for such a meeting.

Contacted by the Jordan Times over the phone, Mr. Fahoum Wednesday asserted that he would not attend "any alternate PNC session in the Syrian capital."

Convening a PNC session in the Syrian capital "is as dangerous as its consequences as a council called by Fateh to meet in Amman," he said.

"Both meetings, if convened, will lead to a dangerous split in the PNC," he contended.

Mr. Fahoum added that he has informed all PLO factions of his stand.

Asked what position would the "democratic alliance" adopt if Fateh rebels and other Syrian-backed factions grouped in the "national alliance" refused to attend a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee held according to the plan, Mr. Hawatmeh avoided a direct reply and said: "We hope that the 'national alliance' would shoulder its responsibility and participate."

"However," he added, "we shall abide by PLO Executive Committee decisions and the Central Council resolutions regardless."

(Continued on page 2)

Algeria calls for OAU fund for African drought

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Algeria called on African states Wednesday to set up a fund to fight the devastating effects of a drought that has cut an arc of destruction from Senegal in West Africa to Kenya in the east and Mozambique in the south.

Algeria made the call at an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, where local authorities said seven million people are threatened with famine.

Conference sources said the Algerian proposal was tabled Wednesday morning and was being debated at a session devoted to Africa's worsening economic plight.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says that more than 30 countries in Africa need food aid, 26 of them critically, because of falling food output and drought.

Algeria also called for a fresh meeting of OAU foreign and finance ministers to speed up implementation of the pan-African organisation's economic blueprint for the continent, the 1980 Lagos plan of action, the sources said.

This proposes creating an African common market by the year 2000 and plans to take the continent self-sufficient in food — a distant dream at present.

It also calls for more trade between African countries. At present less than four per cent of commerce on the continent is between African states.

U.S. rules out prisoner swap

LONDON (R) — The British government said Wednesday it would not be "persuaded" into swapping jailed Libyans for British hostages. "We cannot conceivably contemplate that," Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce told parliament. "If we do, we would be following the policy of handing over those convicted in British courts of terrorist offences, this would greatly increase the danger to British subjects in many other parts of the world," he said. Four Britons have been detained in Tripoli since the two countries broke off diplomatic relations over a siege at the Libyan embassy in London last April. Two are being held without charge and the others were accused last week of spying.

The Foreign Office said Libya had not publicly proposed any swap. But diplomatic sources said Tripoli had unofficially hinted that the Britons would be freed if Britain released five Libyans awaiting trial on bombing charges.

Canada refuses visa to Kahane

OTTAWA (R) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the militant Jewish Defence League, has been refused an entry visa to Canada, an immigration department spokesman said Tuesday. Rabbi Kahane, who planned to speak to university students in Toronto later this month, was turned down because "he could pose a threat to Canadians because of his past history as an advocate of violence," the spokesman said.

Lebanon detains Cypriot vessel

BEIRUT (AP) — The cargo ship, "Miramar," was escorted Wednesday to Beirut by a Lebanese navy patrol because it was suspected of being on a smuggling mission, police said. State radio and privately owned stations, which carried the police report, said the ship was intercepted by the patrol at dawn, Wednesday as it entered Lebanese waters off the coast of northern Lebanon, and was forced to dock at the Beirut port. They said the ship flew a Cypriot flag and its captain was a Syrian national who was officially not accredited to the job.

French envoy in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Francois de Grossouvre, an adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand, was in Beirut Wednesday in preparation for Mr. Mitterrand's scheduled visit to Syria later this month, government officials said. Local newspapers and radios said Mr. de Grossouvre, who arrived Tuesday, was to meet with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami before travelling to Damascus. Mr. Mitterrand is scheduled to meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and other Syrian officials during a visit starting Nov. 26.

Bomb damages bank in Qom

TEHRAN (R) — A bomb badly damaged a bank in the Iranian holy city of Qom Tuesday, wounding five people, the Tehran newspaper Ettela'at reported Wednesday. The blast rocked a branch office of the Saderat Bank and two of the bank's employees were among those hurt, it said. Three women were also injured. The motive for the bombing was not known. The bank is in the same building as offices of the Islamic Al Dawa party, an Iranian-based Iraqi opposition group.

Saudi plane runs into fire in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A small civilian aircraft owned by a Saudi Arabian company Tuesday, encountered anti-aircraft fire as it approached Beirut airport, airport sources said. They said the plane was not hit and landed safely at the airport, next to the Mediterranean coast, south of the city, with no reports of anyone hurt. The sources said the plane had apparently lost its way and run into anti-aircraft fire as it flew over southern suburbs close to the airport. Militias in the Beirut area have anti-aircraft guns and other heavy weaponry. It was not immediately known who had fired on the plane.

Egypt to have 120 F-16s by end of '85

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt will receive another 40 F-16 jet fighters from the United States by the end of next year, boosting its fleet of this type of warplane to 120, the air force commander said in an interview published Wednesday.

Lieutenant-General Mohammad Abdul Hamid Hilmi also told the state-owned weekly magazine Akher Saa the first U.S.-built Hawkeye early warning plane will be delivered at the end of this year.

The planes are part of a U.S. military aid programme that began in 1979 following Egypt's conclusion of a treaty with Israel. Egypt will receive nearly \$2.2 billion worth of American military equipment in the 1984/85 fiscal year, all of it a grant.

"Egypt took delivery recently of 80 F-16 planes and will get another 40 of the same type by the end of next year," Gen. Hilmi told the magazine.

Defence Minister Abdul Halim

Italy supports Palestinian right to independent state, Craxi says

CAIRO (AP) — The Palestinian people are entitled to a state of their own, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi was quoted as saying in a Cairo magazine interview published Thursday in the state-owned weekly Al Mussawar.

"The Palestinian people have the right to a land, a homeland and a state," the magazine quoted him as saying in reply to a question about Italy's position on the Palestinian issue.

"In line with its position within the European Community, Italy believes the Palestinian people should be enabled, through a suitable framework and as part of a comprehensive peace settlement, to exercise the right to self-determination with everything that this entails," Mr. Craxi said.

The 1980 UN Declaration on the Middle East adopted by a European Community summit called for Palestinian self-determination and urged that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) be associated with any peace negotiations.

Israel opposes a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also rejects any talks with the PLO.

Al Mussawar said Mr. Craxi granted the interview on the occasion of his three-day official visit to Egypt scheduled to start on Saturday.

Mr. Craxi said any equitable peace settlement should involve "recovery by the Arabs of their occupied lands" and meet Israel's "security requirements."

Italy is scheduled to take over the chairmanship of the European Community next January. Egyptian officials have said they hoped the community will play a more active role in supporting American-sponsored peace efforts during U.S. President Reagan's second term.

The officials said this will be a major topic in Mr. Craxi's talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali.

Meanwhile in Rome, Mr. Craxi and his foreign minister, Giulio Andreotti, had talks Wednesday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who is on his way back to America from Lebanon.

Official sources said Mr. Murphy briefed the Italians on recent American diplomatic initiatives in the Middle East during the hour-long meeting in a room at Rome's Ciampino airport.

The sources said the three men discussed United Nations efforts for a resumption of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, the Palestinian question, and U.S. diplomatic relations with Iraq, which have been suspended for 17 years.

Mr. Murphy later left Rome for Washington, via Paris.

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Tlas rules out quick Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon

KUWAIT (AP) — Syrian Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas ruled out in an interview published here Wednesday a quick Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Gen. Tlas also said that Syria would not allow Israel to achieve any gains in Lebanon.

"Israel claims of an imminent pullout from Lebanon are part of an Israeli manoeuvre of procrastination in order to win time to consolidate its occupation of the Lebanese territories," Gen. Tlas told the newspaper Al Watan in an interview conducted with him in Damascus.

"The claims (Israeli) are also aimed at blackmailing Syria and Lebanon so as to drag them into direct negotiations with Israel," he said.

The Syrian defence minister reiterated that his country was not prepared to modify its policy in Lebanon.

Abu Ghazala said in a recent television interview the F-16 will be the "backbone" of the air force.

Egypt also has in its arsenal a large number of Soviet-built MIG-21 jet fighters, supplied before Moscow's 1974 decision to halt arms shipments to Cairo, as well as several squadrons of French-made Mirage-5 warplanes.

Gen. Hilmi said the first of the more advanced Mirage 2000 warplane will be delivered early next year. Egypt has contracted for 20 Mirage 2000's, with the option to purchase another 20 later.

The deal with the United States on the supply of radar early warning E-2C Hawkeyes involves four aircraft, but Gen. Hilmi did not make clear whether all or some will be delivered by the end of next month.

The Hawkeye is a smaller version of the AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control System) aircraft.

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EC states prepare new Middle East peace move

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community states are considering sending a high-level mission to the Middle East early next year to help spur stalled peace moves in the region, Community diplomats said Wednesday.

The move is one of several ideas on the Middle East due to be discussed by the 10 foreign ministers at a meeting here next Tuesday although no decision is likely to be taken before the Community's Dublin summit on Dec. 3-4, they added.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, whose country will preside over the bloc's affairs during the first half of next year, would head the mission which may tour the region to underline European concern about deepening tensions there.

Diplomats said only Greece favoured a new fully-fledged peace offensive. Others felt Europe's main function was to jog Washington into a more active peace-making role.

"Whatever we decide will be meant as a signal rather than an initiative," one senior diplomat said. He added that a declaration on the Middle East would be issued by the summit whether or not it decides to go ahead with the mission.

The more modest aims of most

Community states stem from an awareness that they have little to offer in terms of concrete help to advance the peace process, he said.

"We have very little leverage, especially with Israel," another official said. "All the cards are in Washington's hands."

Diplomats said the move was also meant to tell Washington that the time was ripe for it to resume its Middle East peace efforts after an apparent loss of interest in the run-up to this month's U.S. presidential election.

With President Reagan sweeping back to power in Washington and a new and apparently more flexible coalition government ruling Israel since July, Community states feel it is an ideal time for new moves that could break the deadlock persisting since Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Worries nearer home have largely kept the Soviet Union out of the Middle East picture for some time and Community states feel this is a good opportunity to re-

assert the dominant Western role in the region.

"The West has to get back in there quickly to show there is no vacuum for someone else to step into," one diplomat said.

The Community was prepared to voice its anxieties about the Middle East stalemate but would not yield to pressure from Arab governments to play a direct peace-making role, diplomats said.

The close relations between many Community countries and Arab states and repeated European expressions of sympathy with the Palestinian cause have largely ruled out the Community as a mediator, at least in Israeli eyes, they added.

The community's Venice declaration of 1980 spoke of a special role for Europe in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and possibly policing it but the Community has not been able to effectively exercise such a role.

But one senior diplomat said the 10 remained convinced that the way to peace lay in the two principles of the declaration — Israel's right to exist within secure boundaries and the recognition of the legitimate rights of Palestinians, including a role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Euro-Arab dialogue ends in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — The third round of the Euro-Arab dialogue concluded here Tuesday after intensive deliberations among Arab and European participants on a number of political, economic and social issues relevant to the situation in the Middle East.

The Arab side chaired by Jordan, which is the current president of the 82nd session of the Arab League Council, focused in its discussions on the Arab dissatisfaction with the European stand vis-a-vis the Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories which was presented during the Euro-Arab meeting held in Greece late last year.

During the Greece meeting, the Arab side rejected the European text of the suggestions for an Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967: the Palestinian right to self-determination and the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Chairing the Arab side in the Tunis meeting, Mr. Nabil Nimer who is also Jordan's representative in the Tunis-based Arab League, said the conferees also discussed the issue of an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon and the European stand

vis-a-vis Iraq's response to peace initiatives to end its 50-month-old war with Iran.

Mr. Nimer said that the European side in the meeting "came out with a clear impression" on the Arab demands and with a promise to present this impression for discussion during the European Community summit meeting scheduled to be held in Dublin, Ireland next month.

Delivering a speech during the meeting, Mr. Nimer expressed the hope for further Arab-European cooperation and to reach an agreement on the issues discussed. He stressed the will of Arab League countries to step up efforts to continue the Euro-Arab dialogue "despite all obstacles."

"We have made clear time and again the Arab point of view in regards to means for reaching long term agreement and to create a strategy of cooperation between Europe and the Arab World for development and peace," Mr. Nimer said.

In a statement he made to the Jordanian News Agency (Petra), Mr. Nimer said that Arab countries issued the Fez declaration which is based on United Nations resolutions and international laws. The Fez declaration calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories, occupied by Israel

since 1967, including Jerusalem; the recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian right to self-determination on their own soil.

"We were hoping that European countries would have more support of the Arab cause to put an end to the Israeli arrogance and disregard to international norms and human rights," Mr. Nimer said.

In regards to the Lebanese crisis, Mr. Nimer said the Arab countries carried out intensive efforts on all levels to emphasise Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and the necessity of the application of Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509.

Mr. Nimer called on European countries to halt all kinds of aid and assistance to "the party which rejects peace initiatives to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war." He said that Iraq has responded positively to all peace efforts based on the United Nations resolutions and that "there should be a more firm European stand."

He said the Euro-Arab dialogue would continue as a very important step to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the problems in the area. "It is an irreversible decision which we plan to pursue," Mr. Nimer said.

Israeli army plans to fire 2,000 soldiers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's army plans to fire 2,000 professional soldiers and civilian employees, scrip on food and equipment and cut back on training programmes as part of a national economic austerity programme, top generals said in remarks released Wednesday.

Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy reported on the austerity measures to Israeli military correspondents on Sunday, but he did not say how they might affect Israel's fighting capability.

A military spokesman quoted Gen. Levy as saying the cutbacks will bring "a change in the mode of operations and planning for the next year," at a time when Arab Armed Forces were integrating new weapons systems acquired from both the West and the Communist Bloc.

The Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University estimates Israel's professional army numbers 130,000 soldiers, supported by 310,000 reservists.

Quartermaster General Haim Erez said 25 per cent of his budget was being cut but the exact amount was classified.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet decided to trim the defence budget, which is estimated to be nearly \$6 billion, as part of the government's battle against a drain on foreign currency and inflation running at rate of about 600 per cent so far this year. Erez said the army would reduce its purchases, fireless ammunition in training manoeuvres, avoid wasting food and recycle equipment that would otherwise be thrown away.

The army also launched a four-week campaign suspending punishment for any civilian reservist returning stolen equipment. Erez said enough equipment was returned to outfit an infantry brigade: 1,174 firearms ranging from pistols to anti-tank weapons, hundreds of thousands of bullets and 20,000 pairs of fatigues.

Israel's Histadrut Trade Union Federation on Wednesday predicted rising unemployment and mass demonstrations if the government implements plans to cut spending by an additional \$500 million.

The number of unemployed workers will climb from 85,000 to 100,000, or 7 per cent, "in the next few weeks according to our reports from workplaces," said Uzi Bloch, chairman of the Histadrut Employment Authority.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said 5.2 per cent of the workforce or 74,000 people, were without work as of five months ago when jobless statistics were last published.

Israel's governments are extremely sensitive to unemployment, fearing the effect of mass emigration from the country established to absorb Jewish immigrants. Officials also fear high unemployment could accentuate the social divisions between wealthy European Jews and those from Middle Eastern and North African countries.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to present a plan for an additional half-billion dollar budget cut in next Sunday's cabinet meeting. The proposed cut threatens to place further strains on public sector jobs. A cut of one billion dollars has already been authorised by the government.

Fateh prepares for PNC session

(Continued from page 1)

of those who would decline to participate in the meetings because we would consider the decisions and resolutions as those of the majority."

Fateh, meanwhile, appeared determined to convene the council in Amman as scheduled and confident of securing the required quorum for the council to meet.

Fateh Central Committee member and deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil Al Wazir, told the Associated Press in an interview Wednesday that "the PNC is going to be held in Amman on Nov. 22 as scheduled."

However, doubts over Fateh's ability to secure the quorum were raised by PLO officials and observers alike. Mr. Fahoum told

Damascus Radio he was sure that "150 PNC members would boycott the session in Amman."

Moreover, two senior officials of Fateh have repeatedly failed to talk the 37 PNC members, who endorsed the suggestions calling for meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council, to attend the planned council session.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Salah Khalaf, member of the Fateh Central Committee, Tuesday met with the 37 PNC members, well-informed sources told the Jordan Times. But, the sources said, the officials could not reach agreement with the PNC members.

The sources said that the two officials reviewed with the PNC members the history of Fateh's relations with Syria and stressed

that the movement was compelled to reach the decision to convene the council in Amman because of a deadlock in talks with the "national alliance" and the "non-helpful attitude of the democratic alliance."

The sources also quoted Mr. Kaddoumi as telling the PNC members that the Syrians have offered him the chairmanship of the PLO once Mr. Arafat is ousted, but he refused to take up the offer. The sources also quoted Mr. Khalaf as proposing that another PNC meeting could be called in 10 days after the Amman conference if the 37 PNC members agreed to attend.

But, sources close to the PNC members told the Jordan Times that the council members "were not convinced of the two officials' arguments and they felt that they were offered nothing new."

Denktash attacks Greece on anniversary

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash marked Thursday's first anniversary of his unilateral declaration of independence in northern Cyprus by accusing Greece of seeking to annex the island.

Mr. Denktash, in a radio speech Wednesday at the start of three days of celebrations of his "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" — recognised only by Turkey — said it would continue as it is "or as one of the federated states of a federal Cyprus Republic."

Mr. Denktash and the Greek Cypriot leader, Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou, are due to begin a third and final round of separate talks on reunifying the divided island with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Nov. 26.

Iraq reportedly has new basis for Gulf peace

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has made new proposals for a solution of the four-year-old Gulf war with Iran, Arab diplomatic sources said.

They said the Iraqi proposals were given to Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah, who concluded a two-day visit to Baghdad Tuesday.

The sources declined to give further details, but described the Iraqi proposals as "flexible" and

said they might help to pave the way for a new initiative by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Sources close to the Kuwaiti delegation said Kuwait was expected to contact Moscow and Washington on the new proposals because it was the only GCC state maintaining diplomatic relations with both superpowers. The other five GCC states have ties only with the United States.

Iran says U.N. team must see PoWs in Iraq first

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has denied requesting the postponement of a visit by an United Nations team looking into conditions of prisoners captured in the Gulf war, but says the mission must first visit Iraq to see Iranians held there.

A U.N. spokesman in New York said on Monday Iran had sought a postponement of the visit by the team, due to have arrived in Tehran Wednesday and to have gone on to Iraq after about a week. He gave no reasons for the Iranian request.

France plays down reports of new Libyan offensive

PARIS (R) — French officials Wednesday played down reports from N'Djamena claiming that Libyan troops had withdrawn from northern Chad and were planning a fresh offensive against government-held positions.

An External Relations Ministry spokesman declined to comment on the reports, published Tuesday by the official Chad News Agency ATP, saying the French position had not changed since the Franco-Libyan troop pull-out was

completed at the weekend.

The completion of the mutual troop withdrawal was announced jointly by France and Libya on Saturday.

The spokesman referred to a French Defence Ministry communiqué, which said that a Franco-Libyan observer team had monitored the withdrawal during visits to the northern cities of Zouar, Ouadi Kabbir, Faya and Fada.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:15 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
17:45 Chipp
18:25 Programme Review
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Competition Programme
21:30 Towards 2000
21:50 Arabic Play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Faint Hearted Feminist
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 Sherlock Holmes
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature film: The Emperor Waltz

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Morning Show
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 Pop Session
09:30 News Summary
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Just A Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Summary
18:30 News Summary
19:00 News Summary
19:30 News Summary
20:00 News Summary
20:30 News Summary
21:00 News Summary
21:30 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
23:30 News Summary
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newswatch 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Finance Review 07:00 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Poshel's Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 The Fanning World 09:00 World News 09:30 Poshel's Choice 09:45 The World Today 10:00 News Summary 10:30 Poshel's Choice 10:45 The World Today 11:00 News Summary 11:30 Poshel's Choice 11:45 The World Today 12:00 News Summary 12:30 Poshel's Choice 12:45 The World Today 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Poshel's Choice 13:45 The World Today 14:00 News Summary 14:30 Poshel's Choice 14:45 The World Today 15:00 News Summary 15:30 Poshel's Choice 15:45 The World Today 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Poshel's Choice 16:45 The World Today 17:00 News Summary 17:30 Poshel's Choice 17:45 The World Today 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Poshel's Choice 18:45 The World Today 19:00 News Summary 19:30 Poshel's Choice 19:45 The World Today 20:00 News Summary 20:30 Poshel's Choice 20:45 The World Today 21:00 News Summary 21:30 Poshel's Choice 21:45 The World Today 22:00 News Summary 22:30 Poshel's Choice 22:45 The World Today 23:00 News Summary 23:30 Poshel's Choice 23:45 The World Today 24:00 News Summary

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 12510 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; business reports; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; analysis; viewpoints; features 17:10 News 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 18:50 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Now Music USA 21:00 Newsline 21:30 Newsline 21:50 Newsline 22:15 Newsline 22:30 Newsline 22:45 Newsline 23:00 Newsline 23:15 Newsline 23:30 Newsline 23:45 Newsline 24:00 Newsline

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of engineering books at Yarmouk University in cooperation with the British Council (until Nov. 18).
* An exhibition of engineering books at the Faculty of Engineering, Jordan University, in cooperation with the British Council from Nov. 14 to Nov. 20th.
* An exhibition of Jordanian-Chinese stamps at the Royal Cultural Centre, Wednesday. It runs until Nov. 20.

PLAY

* A play for children (5 to 10) "The Musicians of Bremen and Hansel and Gretel". Hays Arts Centre in cooperation with Goethe Institute at Hays Arts Centre, starting 10:15 a.m. until Nov. 21.

CONCERTS

* A concert by Sergio Mendes and friends at 8:00 p.m. Friday Nov. 16 at the Palace of Culture at Al Hussein Sports City.
* The Bluegrass Cardinals, one of America's prominent bluegrass music bands, will be performing Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday Nov. 17, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Hays Arts Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 44371
British Council Tel. 41570
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009
Goethe Institute Tel. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777
Hays Arts Centre Tel. 66181
Hussein Youth City Tel. 66181
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 664251
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 43555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and con-

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:00 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Bucharest (RO)
09:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
11:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
12:00 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:45 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:00 Cairo (RJ)
07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Brussels, Dhahran (RJ)
12:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
13:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 661757.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 41559.
Assyrian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 771331.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 (Sunrise) Fajr
06:05 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 (Sunrise) Asr
14:10 (Sunrise) Maghrib
16:30 (Sunrise) Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

26:15 Jeddah (RJ)
26:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
26:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:00 Singapore (RJ)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
02:15 London (2A)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:
— Al Khassan
— Adria Star
— Kirok
— Jeddah Crown
— Kota Tamar
— Khamas
— Samsat
— El Arif
— Uly Sars
— Herjo Kosta
— Ibn Shuhaid
— Naguwa Maru
— Anwal

Amn Kawan and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six times a day).

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in Agaba:
Belgian franc 66.51 / 66.9
Dutch guilder 119.31 / 120.1
Egyptian pound 310 / 315
French franc 43.9 / 44.1
Iraqi dinar 333.3 / 340
Italian lire (for 100) 21.6 / 21.8
Japanese yen (for 100) 164.3 / 165.2
Swiss franc 66.7 / 67.7
U.K. sterling pound 502.8 / 505.5
U.S. dollar 394.9 / 397.5
W. German mark 135.6 / 135.4

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:
As a shallow depression centred in north Egypt is approaching this area, it will become cloudy to partly cloudy, with scattered showers associated with thunderstorms at times. Southerly winds will be becoming southerly to moderate. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with scattered showers and seas rough.

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

06:30 Agaba (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Kuwait (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
06:45 Cairo (MS)
06:45 Beirut, Amsterdam, (KL, BA)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 77511
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22000-3
Police rescue 192, 211, 2111
Police headquarters 59141
Traffic police 36381-2
Electric Power Co. 771125-8
Municipal water service 661158
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32
Khalid Military, J. Amn 44281-4
Al-Hadith Military, J. Amn 44241
Jabal Amman Maternity 62362
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669313
University Hospital 645845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Munasher Hospital 66722-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Islamic, Al-Munasher 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111
Army, Marfa 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Kamal Al Remahi 770018

MARKET PRICES

Upper flour price in Agaba per kg:
Apple (golden) 200 / 160
Apple (local) 200 / 160
Apple (stark) 200 / 160
Banana 280 / 240
Banana (Mekummar) 240 / 210
Beans 550 / 500
Broad beans 550 / 500
Cabbage 140 / 110
Carrot 850 / 750
Cauliflower 140 / 110
Cucumber (large) 100 / 80
Cucumber (small) 100 / 80
Dates 200 / 170
Eggplant (large) 100 / 70
Eggplant (small) 100 / 70
Figs 400 / 350
Garlic 180 / 150
Grapes 280 / 200
Grapefruit 120 / 90
Guava 200 / 160

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:00 Koran
16:15 Cartoons
16:30 Scooby and Scrappy Dog
16:45 Children's Programmes
17:00 Chipp
17:15 Documentary
17:30 Soccer
17:45 Knight Rider
18:00 Arabic Programme
18:30 Macropole
19:30 Religious Programmes
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Programme
21

Husseini condoles At-Said family

Amman (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delivered a message of condolence to the family of the late Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Adnan At-Said, who died on Tuesday.

Hikmat discusses cultural literature programmes

Amman (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Hikmat, Tuesday called for a "Western cultural invasion" through the creation of services and meaningful programmes.

Mr. Hikmat was speaking during a meeting with the members of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) administrative committee. He also stressed the importance of cooperation between the JWA and the various authorities concerned with a view to promoting and developing cultural relations.

The ministry will publish all cultural productions and called for reviving the theatre work which serves the goals and objectives of our people and homeland. Mr. Hikmat added:

Speaking about Afkar magazine, which has recently been suspended, Mr. Hikmat said that the magazine was originally designed for excellent writers and therefore it should be re-issued in a new form, coping with the reasons behind its establishment. Mr. Hikmat then called for re-introducing the special system whereby excellent writers will be granted meritorious prizes.

The meeting was attended by Director of Culture and Arts, Mr. Mahmoud.

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Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Wednesday inaugurates two gas turbine units as part of the country's celebrations for His Majesty King Hussein's birthday (Petra photo)

Obeidat inaugurates JEA turbines to mark King's birthday, Jordan's progress

Amman (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat said, "today we celebrate an occasion which is dear to all of us in this country, the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein."

Mr. Obeidat was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of gas turbine units 8 and 9 which were constructed by Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in Al Muqabalain area south Amman.

The inauguration ceremony Wednesday was a part of the country's celebrations of the King's birthday.

Mr. Obeidat said: "We are very pleased to open this vital project which reflects the will and determination of our people. This major project is a great achievement for this country made possible under the victorious leadership of His Majesty King Hussein."

Also speaking in the celebration was Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources and JEA Chairman of the Board, Hisham Al Khatib who welcomed Mr. Obeidat and said that with the operation of these two gas units, the increasing demand for electricity in the country will be met.

Mr. Khatib also said that the National Transmission Grid will be supplied with the electrical power for emergencies and during peak load periods.

Current energy situation

In his speech, Dr. Khatib also reviewed the current energy situation in Jordan and confirmed that the situation is satisfactory, pointing out that in 1986 the energy situation will be better upon completion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS). Dr. Khatib affirmed that the increasing rate of individual consumption of electricity in Jordan, which exceeds the rate of consumption in most developing countries, reflects the level of economic and social evolution in Jordan. Dr. Khatib hailed the technical co-

operation between Jordan and Japan saying that JEA has been cooperating with Japanese companies since many years including the one which carried out this project.

Speaking on this occasion was JEA Acting Director General Walid Al Ja'ouni who extended congratulations on behalf of JEA staff to His Majesty King Hussein on his birthday.

Mr. Ja'ouni reviewed the national goals which the JEA is seeking to serve Jordanian society and to keep up with the country's economic and social activities.

Earlier, upon his arrival at the site the prime minister, accompanied by his deputy and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, was received by Dr. Khatib, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi, JEA members of the board and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Effective backup

The two gas turbine units, whose total cost is JD 4,385,000, will remedy any shutdown on the steam units at Hussein Thermal Power Station (HTPS) or at Marqa Power Station and will also strengthen the generated electricity in the country until the completion of ATPS in the second half of 1986. This type of unit is more efficient and can be made operational within a period no more than 15 minutes.

Queen Alia Heart Institute

Located in the quiet and green surroundings of the King Hussein Medical City compound, the Queen Alia Heart Institute emits a feeling of comfort and efficiency to the visitor. The polished, spotless corridors lead to the wards, to the offices to the four operating theatres for cardiovascular surgery and to the two catheterisation labs.

Built by a generous donation by the Sultan of Oman to the Jordan Armed Forces in 1979, the institute was activated on March 17, 1982 and was officially opened on March 30th, 1983 by the Sultan of Oman and His Majesty King Hussein. The highly-qualified medical staff, however, had been combining their efforts already since 1969 in the old Amman Army Hospital and, in 1973, with the opening of the Hussein Medical Centre, a 60-bed ward for cardiology was located in the premises.

Surgeons express concern over coronary disease incidence

Heart attacks increase in Jordan

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The increase in heart attacks and other cardiovascular diseases is a reality physicians know well, and one that the public is rapidly coming to realise. "Unfortunately we have no statistics to demonstrate these observations, but it is a fact that heart attacks are on the increase in Jordan," Dr. Yousef Goussous, Senior Cardiac Consultant and Medical Director of the Queen Alia Heart Institute at the King Hussein Medical Centre says. And, if this is not enough reason for concern, Jordan has one of the highest incidence rates of coronary heart disease in the Middle East, he adds.

"Not only do we have an increase in the incidence of heart attacks," says Dr. Zakariya Daoud, at the Department of Cardiology, at the University of Jordan Hospital in Amman, "but it is impressive how younger ages are now affected. In the late 1960's, when I returned to Jordan from England, the average age affected by heart attacks was 55 and over. It gradually moved down to 45-55, then 35-45, and it is now as low as 30, sometimes even lower," he adds.

Dr. Jawdat Khalaf, specialist in internal medicine and cardiology and a qualified member of the American board and private practitioner in Amman, agrees with these findings. "My youngest patient to suffer from a heart attack was 16," he recalls. Dr. Khalaf also states that cases of heart attack are still on the increase.

Jordan is certainly not an isolated case in this increase of heart problems. In the USA the incidence of heart attacks has become so alarming that the federal government itself has come to publish dietary recommendations in the U.S. Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition and Human

explains the high incidence of heart attacks. Most of these risk factors are also correlated, i.e. lack of exercise can bring on overweight, which often causes hypertension and so on.

However, during research conducted in 1981, over 111 Jordanian male patients, of mean age 52.5, Dr. Daoud found that most of them had lower than normal cholesterol levels and blood pressure, while triglycerides and blood glucose, both related to diabetes, were higher. Thirty of these patients had a history of smoking and a significant statistical relationship was found between triglycerides levels and cigarette smoking.

"It is widely agreed," Dr. Daoud states, "that a number of variables in combination are associated with increased susceptibility to coronary heart disease and that it is impossible to isolate the statistical effect of any single risk factor. Serum cholesterol, however, did not seem to play a significant role as a risk factor in Jordanian subjects with documented coronary artery disease."

On the other hand, he continues, "diabetes mellitus was diagnosed in 56.8% of the subjects in this study; 70.9% of whom were above the age of 50. Patients with diabetes of adult onset appear to have more coronary artery disease than do control populations not suffering from diabetes," says Dr. Daoud.

"A significant regression coefficient value," he adds, "was found between triglycerides level as a dependent variable and smoking. The nicotine content of tobacco stimulates the mobilization of epinephrine and non epinephrine from a chromaffin tissue, mobilizing substantial quantities of lipids in the serum of smoking."

Dr. Goussous also agrees that, although high cholesterol level and other factors are still important as risk factors in contributing to the hardening of the coronaries, smoking and stress seem to be the main causes of heart disease in Jordan. "There is less cholesterol in our diet compared to the average U.S. diet," he says.

Stress in Jordan

There is no doubt that life in Jordan is becoming increasingly more stressful. The political upheaval in the area, the uncertainty, the economical hardship all contribute to an emotional and nervous state of tension. While Dr. Khalaf takes it as an inevitable part of today's society, especially in industrialised or developing

nations where communicable diseases have almost been eradicated to give place to heart problems, cancer and occupational diseases, and suggests to carefully attempt to avoid all other risk factors in order to lessen the chance of coronary heart disease. Dr. Goussous believes one can also learn how to cope with stress. "You can't quantify stress," he says. "What is a stressful situation for one can be an exciting and happy challenge for another person. It all depends how you react to it."

Individuals who are under continuous stress also tend to smoke more. "Most Jordanian patients I have," Dr. Daoud says, "smoke over 20 cigarettes a day, with an average of 30." While the Ministry of Health has in the past started a campaign against cigarette smoking, Dr. Goussous feels it is still "not very effective" and urges the undertaking of stricter measures for the protection of our hearts.

"Prevention can save so many more lives than cure in the case of heart attack," says Dr. Khalaf. "We can only operate on a few cases each day. But prevention can, and should, start as early as possible, children should be trained in nutrition and general health rules, the media should publish more to make the public aware of the problem. Periodic checkups are also important in detecting early cases, not allowing the disease to progress. Unfortunately, most Jordanians seem to care more for the cure than the prevention, and rarely listen when we ask them to quit smoking or to change their diets. "There is, however, an increasing general awareness of the problem". Dr. Khalaf continues, "and patients are coming for more regular checkups, are conscious of chest pain and there is a new general trend toward exercising more which is good."

Six die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Six people were killed and 95 others were wounded as a result of 184 road accidents which took place all over Jordan during this week, a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department said Wednesday.

The bulletin added that the largest number of accidents took place in Amman area where 51 accidents occurred.

Meanwhile 68 people were killed and 940 others were injured as a result of 1,548 road accidents which took place in the various parts of Jordan during July, according to the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab.

London's favourite comedy appreciated by enthusiastic Amman audiences

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "There's a Girl in my Soup", a comedy and one of the outstanding cultural activities running in Amman, was presented during a dinner theatre at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel and has been running since Monday Nov. 11.

This three-act comedy, has run for 2,370 performances in London's West End attracting more than 1.5 million visitors. Author Terrace Frisby, illustrates the life of a womaniser, Mr. Robert Danvers, who constantly tries his charm and influence on women, but somehow he is frustrated by these continuous trials at catching women. Finally, he meets a somewhat coarse and unforgiving girl, Marion, who gives him a hard time while trying to adapt to his high standard of living.

Robert falls in love with Marion and proposes to her; she refuses and prefers Jimmy, her old boyfriend, to Robert, the socially well-established man.

The professional British actors excelled in their acting roles, especially those roles requiring witty

dialogues, a sense of humour and perfect timing. These actors used their voices, body postures and gestures with full effect, notably the main actors who made the utmost use of their professional acting capacity.

The technical aspects of the play were professionally covered; the set design by Terry Parsons, director of design at Plymouth's Theatre Royal in Great Britain, was simple, a studio flat in London, yet all the action of this play took place in this studio and also helped and enhanced the movements of the actors.

The dramatic structure of the play flowed smoothly, each act

had minor and major climaxes that were pointed out perfectly. The dramatic action that involved a foreshadowing of the story, point of attacks and reversals were in harmony with the finale. The success of pointing out these dramatic structures is credited to the director of this play, Tony Carven, who has directed over 30 productions such as "The Glass Menagerie", "Tempest", and "A Man for All Seasons".

The choice of the play was suitable for the audience, laughter was echoing in the hall, and the audience was enthusiastic about the performance and the actors. They would interrupt by clapping during highly comical moments.



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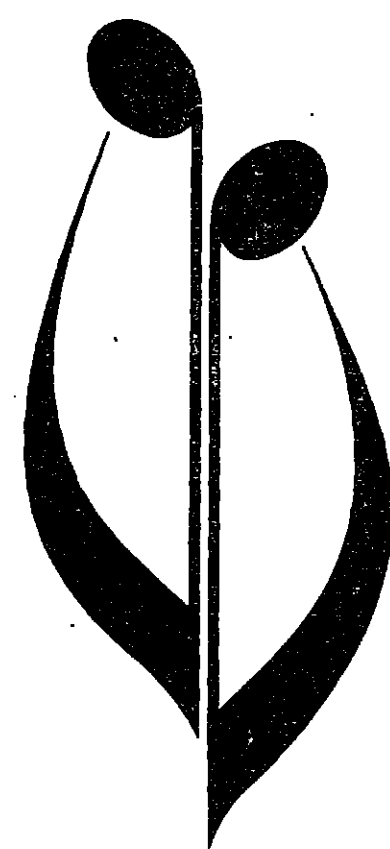
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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN AND HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR



The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education
Presents a Concert By

Sergio Mendes and Friends

On Friday, 16, NOV. 1984 at 8:00 pm at the Palace of Culture, King Hussein Youth Sports City. Tickets are JD 10, 5 and 3
Available at the Royal Cultural Center tel: 661026
Gi. Rho. Ma Music Instruments, new Housing Bank Complex tel: 672755
Firas Library, Jabal Amman, tel: 41134
University Library, Jabal Luweibdeh tel: 36339

VIEW FROM AMERICA

By Franz Schürmann

People's spirit more powerful than technology

THE LATEST drop in oil prices sent ripples throughout the American and global business world. It also sent waves amongst the politicians. The thoughts that are on all their minds is: is this the end of OPEC?

It was the British who made the first move. The British cut the price of oil and immediately Nigeria followed. The OPEC countries then hastily consulted. Their first reaction was to raise production in order to force the price of oil up. But can they really? There is too much oil already. Since OPEC was formed, major new producers have come onto the scene: Mexico, Britain and Norway. Saudi Arabia in the early 1970's was able single-handedly to control the world price of oil. Today they have much less control.

In the U.S., gasoline prices have been holding steady or sinking. Chances are now that they will sink even more. That should stimulate the economy. But the American economy has been slowing down lately. And while that will not affect the East Asian economies, it means that the European economies that have just started to recover could now suffer a setback. And that means even less demand for oil. Then there is another factor: the Soviet Union.

Of late there have been signs that the U.S. and the Soviets are going, once again, to come to some agreement. When this last happened, there was no danger of large amounts of Soviet oil coming into the West. Now the Soviets badly need to export their oil in order

to earn foreign exchange. Will the East be willing to take some of this oil in exchange for concessions in regard to political and military matters? Quite possible.

If a U.S.-Soviet agreement should come into being early in the next U.S. administration which contained some understandings about Soviet oil, then this would be bad for the Middle East. The Soviet Union would then emerge as a major exporter on the world oil market. And a decade or so hence, China with its huge oil resources will enter the world oil market. That means even worse news for the Middle East.

All this is speculative, but it could happen. There are good reasons to think the hard-

headed strategists in Washington and London may be thinking in these terms. The Middle East is not the powder keg it once was. The U.S. and the Soviet Union could have clashed when American Marines were in Beirut and could have moved into the Chouf mountains towards the Bek's Valley. They did not. The Israeli factor has changed. Israel, in the end, was badly hurt by the Lebanon invasion. Discontent is growing in Israel. Disaffection has begun to arise within the once highly unified and motivated "Tahal," the Israeli army.

At the same time, Iran and Iraq have not yet shown that either "can make a difference." The war looks like a stalemate. Another Iranian AI

Fajr offensive! How far can it really go? Western strategists have their doubts.

The Soviets are badly stuck in Afghanistan. They pose no threat to anyone else at this point.

The only real cloud on the horizon other than the Lebanese, is some slight but worrisome signs of trouble on the India-Pakistan frontier. There is Western worry that internal troubles in India could spill over into another conflict with Pakistan.

All this means the Middle East may be on the way to being downgraded in global political importance. And that means less chances of war. The drop in oil prices so could be a sign of more peaceful times to come.

But it could also mean harder economic times for the Middle East. The super-generous Saudis could be a thing of the past. There just will not be enough dollars to be spread around for both economic development and defence.

The Arab Nation had resources far more noble than oil. Those come from their religion and the great civilisation of the past. To speak of spiritual resources sounds so vague compared to the hard notion of dollars coming from oil lifted from the ground. But as a famous American black radical once said, "the people's spirit is more powerful than the man's technology." (Man is a colloquial American term meaning boss).

The age of initiatives

IN AN interview published in the Wall Street Journal two days ago, former U.S. President Richard Nixon had some words of advice for the Reagan administration's second term. "In a nutshell," the newspaper said, Mr. Nixon's advice was this: "Move quickly. Change some players if you can. But also keep your focus on very few issues. Forget about forging consensus, just lead. Don't ignore the Third World. Don't focus exclusively on arms control. And move on the Middle East no later than early '85."

But the former president's "most surprising bit of advice," according to the newspaper, came in admonishing President Reagan and his team to "acknowledge that the Russians have a role to play in the Middle East."

"In foreign policy, whether the Middle East, Soviet-American relations or any change in direction in Central America, the time to do it is right now," Mr. Nixon said, "slamming his right fist into his left palm 'for emphasis'."

A day or two before the Nixon interview, another former U.S. official and a renowned authority on the Middle East was also giving a word of advice — not to the Reagan administration but rather to the Arabs.

Agreeing that the Soviet Union should be involved in the search for peace in the Middle East, and that the Palestinian problem will be high on the re-elected president's agenda, Dr. Harold Saunders, in a telephone interview with a group of Jordanians last week, called on Jordanians and Palestinians "to take a step that could make it politically impossible for the U.S. to ignore" their cause.

Well, Mr. Nixon knows about American politics much more than any of us here does. Let us hope that President Reagan will listen to his advice, particularly on the Middle East.

Dr. Saunders, having served for several years as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, should also know a lot about the Palestinian problem and about American thinking on this area. Let us too think of his words of advice to our peoples and governments.

It would be a great step towards achieving progress in the Middle East if we and the Americans strike a deal to heed the two men's advice on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Luckily in this respect we think we have a cause to celebrate. The PLO's decision to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman on Nov. 22 is no less a courageous decision than that of Jordan to host it here. The event in itself is a big initiative to prepare the Arab side for future steps on the Middle East. And it is for the Americans now to understand this monumental step's significance.

Some people might still wonder about what the whole thing means for the peace process, and whether another convening of the PNC, albeit in Amman, augurs well for the cause of peace. We, for obvious reasons, don't share in these people's scepticism, although it is indeed difficult to explain the new development.

There will soon be an opportunity to explore more and deeper into the Jordanian-Palestinian initiative and its significance. For now the cornerstone has been laid for tremendous action, and it is enough for some at least to notice it. Political work is seldom only speeches delivered and impressive manifestos unveiled.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Productive march

THE JORDANIAN family Wednesday celebrated His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, a dear occasion to every one of this family.

The occasion marks the long but interesting and beautiful, the tiresome but fruitful march of King Hussein, who since his accession to the throne has been working hard for building Jordan and for the welfare and future of the Jordanian people.

The heavy burdens and responsibilities King Hussein has been shouldering have never discouraged him to continue the march, on the contrary they have been encouraging him to work harder and harder.

"If it has been for anybody to boast of his deeds and achievements, then it should be King Hussein, who should boast of his great achievements."

On this dear occasion, we wish to see the good march His Majesty started going on with all the love and loyalty he carried, and we wish that the Arab flag fly over occupied Jerusalem and every inch of our occupied homeland.

Al Dustour: Along on King's path

THE JORDANIAN family Wednesday renewed its love and loyalty to His Majesty King Hussein who reciprocated the love and loyalty and directed the nation's attention and utmost efforts to achieve its aspirations.

Under the banner of King Hussein, the banner of the Great Arab Revolt, Jordan has moved on the path of progress and ranked high amongst developing countries. The scarcity of resources and lack of finances have never stopped Jordan from continuing its march. On the contrary, it urged Jordan to work even harder until it has become an example for some countries in the area and among developing nations.

The Jordanian people, while celebrating King Hussein's birthday, is pledging to adhere to all principles King Hussein called for and to continue the march under his wise leadership.

The Jordanian people views this dear occasion as a renewal of the determination by the citizens in this country to continue their hardwork in order to accomplish further achievements.

Sawt Al Shaab: For all the Arabs

JORDAN'S CELEBRATIONS Wednesday of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday marks the start of a new era in the life of our country and people. It is an occasion when citizens renew their pledge of allegiance to King Hussein and vow to continue the march under his wise leadership.

The occasion embodies the aspirations of our people and strengthens cohesion between the leader and the nation and fills their hearts with determination and firmness.

Quite few are the leaders who enrich the history of their nations through hardworking and dedication, and quite few are those who stick to principles. King Hussein is one of those few people. He has been working hard since the day he acceded to the throne, and has adhered to the principles he believed in. Therefore, his name has been linked with the homeland, just as the homeland's name has been linked with his name. King Hussein is living in the hearts and souls of his people, the people whom he loved and for whom he has worked very hard throughout the years of his rule.

King Hussein has never worked for Jordan alone; he has always been working for the whole Arab Nation. He has worked for national pride and Arab solidarity, which is the only way to achieve the Arab people's goals and aspirations.

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia is learning to live with the end of the oil boom.

Except in hard-hit sectors of private business where numerous concerns have ceased trading, a curious air of confidence and even of relief pervades the kingdom.

"Thank you for your concern about us," a ranking official close to the decision-making process said during a briefing.

"Ten years ago... the worry was whether we could possibly spend all our money. We really could not go on spending and spending. The end of the boom is a healthy phenomenon."

This view was echoed by Abdullah Dabbagh, secretary-general of the Saudi Arabian Council of Chambers of Commerce, who told Reuters: "For many of us, this is a blessing in disguise. The economy

will be competitive, better..."

Western diplomats and expatriate bankers tend to agree that the kingdom, with fewer than 10 million inhabitants, can probably manage an era of sharply lower petroleum revenues by curbs on spending and by drawing on overseas assets accumulated during the boom.

But they say it is important that the oil price should not crash from its present \$29 a barrel and that the market bear out predictions by the oil minister, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, of a recovery in demand for oil around 1986-87.

Saudi output is around a 15-year low, probably little more than three million barrels per day (BPD) since the kingdom bore the brunt of latest production curbs agreed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in its struggle to prevent a price collapse.

The kingdom had hoped to pro-

duce nearer five million BPD — a level attained this spring — throughout the fiscal year ending next March.

Overseas assets hoarded in the boom years may have reached around \$150 billion several years ago, but bankers estimate that they are now down below about 110 billion.

To husband the diminishing hoard through the lean years, Finance Minister Mohammad Abulhail is exercising strict control of state disbursements.

His goal seems to be to keep a budget deficit for the fiscal year down around a projected \$13 billion, to be met from the reserves, despite what may have been over-optimistic revenue assumptions.

With about 80 per cent of all business activity in Saudi Arabia dependent ultimately on budget disbursement of the royal family's oil earnings, the squeeze is tough on

some.

The finance minister has denied that contractors' payments are being delayed deliberately. But contractors' performances are being subjected to close scrutiny, which bankers and businessmen say means delays before cash is handed over.

The squeeze coincides with what was probably the inevitable end of the country's construction boom, which now seems almost saturated with airports, highways, flyovers, marble-clad office blocks and even palaces. "What were they going to do next?" asked one Western diplomat. "... tarmac the desert?"

Work has also largely been completed on building new oil refining and petrochemicals industries.

"This is state-of-the-art petrochemicals," Mr. Dabbagh said. Still, he estimated, of a total of around 180,000 companies and

one-man establishments, about 300 companies stopped trading last year and more would close this year.

Bankers say they face tough decisions on whether to go on lending to ailing concerns and add that the government has been disappointed in hopes that private entrepreneurs would mobilise their own "own" holdings to assist their businesses.

The outflow of capital during the boom was huge, said one well-placed official, who declined to be identified. "The flow back is a trickle." Businessmen grumble in turn, discreetly, about what they say is high royal spending.

And diplomats speculate whether a leaner private sector and a cash-pinched bureaucracy will be able to provide a rising generation of educated young Saudis with enough jobs of the sort deemed congenial. Saudis tend to disdain

manual toil. With possibly the "Third World's most spectacular" education programme, Saudi Arabia has around one million boys and 500,000 girls in school. Its universities will supply some 7,500 graduates this year.

Another longer-term problem, if oil fails to rebound, will be the cost of operating the infrastructure of gleaming cities, refineries, roads, airports and seawater desalination plants sold to the Saudis in the West's rush to recycle petrodollars.

Lucrative contracts are still forthcoming in some sectors, but the Saudis are now applying extra conditions on contractors.

U.S. companies bidding for a three-to-four-billion-dollar "peace shield" project to back up Saudi AWACS early warning planes are required to invest a large chunk of the money they receive in joint ventures with Saudi firms.



Arab News

Relatively content Shultz believed to stay

By R. Gregory Nokes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, described as content despite the U.S. setback in Lebanon and continuing frustrations over "bureaucratic infighting," would like to serve in president Ronald Reagan's second administration, and may get the nod as early as next week, close aides say.

There is no doubt, these aides say, that the White House wants to keep him, even though at least two other prominent figures in the administration, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, would like his job.

Mr. Shultz is expected to discuss staying on with Mr. Reagan after the president returns to the White House from his post-election rest at the California ranch next week. The president already has signaled support for his current cabinet members, saying in a recent interview he would be "just satisfied" if they all stayed.

"I'm not unhappy with anyone," he said. Martin Fitzwater, a White House spokesman, said Friday he was sure Mr. Shultz would be asked to stay on. "I'm certain the president does want him to stay, and I haven't seen any indication he wants to leave," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Shultz will be counted on to play the leading role in the ad-

ministration's efforts to improve relations with the Soviet Union in Mr. Reagan's second term. He has held in-depth discussions with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on the subject and met last week in India with Soviet Premier Nikolai Tikhonov.

There is speculation Mr. Shultz might travel to Moscow early next year to meet with Soviet officials, possibly to nail down an understanding for resumed major arms control negotiations, which Mr. Shultz favours.

He gets high marks in the administration for his Central American policies, especially the strategy to build credibility for the government of El Salvador through the recent elections in which

Jose Napoleon Duarte won the presidency. Congress is no longer hesitant to appropriate money for Salvadoran authorities to combat leftist guerrillas, who are now seen as on the defensive.

Mr. Shultz won Mr. Reagan's agreement to holding talks with the leftist Sandinista leadership of Nicaragua, although others in the administration were strongly opposed.

Mr. Shultz, 63, now has what his aides describe as an upbeat attitude towards his job, to which he was appointed after Mr. Reagan accepted the resignation of Alexander M. Haig Jr. in June 1982. One senior aide said Mr. Shultz probably would stay a full four years, if Mr. Reagan wants him.

Thai general climbs down over devaluation

By Jose Katigbak
Reuter

BANGKOK — A newspaper cartoon showing the sun being eclipsed by a coin could foreshadow the future of Thai army chief General Arthit Kamlang-ek.

This is how Western diplomats interpreted the cartoon which appeared Monday after Gen. Arthit, whose name in the vernacular means "sun," softened his outspoken opposition to last week's devaluation of the baht in the face of a determined government defence.

"Arthit relents" headlined the Bangkok World newspaper after the army chief withdrew his tough demands on Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda to reverse the devaluation order and reshuffle his cabinet or face unrest.

Western diplomats said Gen. Arthit's about face on what sec-

med a collision course with Mr. Prem indicated the army chief did not have the unified support of the military.

The prime minister still commanded the loyalty of key officers, the diplomats said.

A weekend meeting of about 50 senior military commanders including Gen. Arthit reached the consensus that there should be no coup attempt against Mr. Prem's coalition government over the devaluation issue, informed army sources said.

Gen. Arthit is scheduled to leave the top military post when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 60 next year but his supporters are lobbying for an extension of his term.

Diplomats, however, said Gen. Arthit's open involvement in politics may have eroded this support. The controversy between Gen. Arthit and Mr. Prem broke out

last week when the government devalued the baht from 23 to 27 to the dollar and floated it against a basket of currencies.

Gen. Arthit denounced the 14.8 per cent devaluation saying it would cause the people hardship and severely affect the military's development plans.

He warned Mr. Prem that if chaos and instability broke out as a result of the devaluation "don't call on us (the military) because it will not be our responsibility."

Acting swiftly to meet his gravest political challenge since taking over as prime minister in March, 1980, Mr. Prem assured the military that funds would be made available for defence programmes to offset losses caused by the devaluation.

But he ignored demands for a cabinet reshuffle and defended the devaluation of the baht as nec-

essary to revitalise the country's economy and stem its growing trade deficit.

Diplomats said Mr. Prem's assurance that there would be no defence spending cuts helped defuse the situation.

The prime minister also strongly opposed an opposition move to recall parliament from recess to discuss a motion of no-confidence against the government.

Gen. Arthit, in interviews with reporters Monday, sought to play down his differences with Mr. Prem. He said he did not want a change in government, only a change in economic policies to safeguard the people's living standard.

He described the controversy as a misunderstanding and said under a democracy anyone could express his own sentiments.

Finns criticise grip of monopoly capital

By Patrick Humphreys
Reuter

HELSINKI — Finland has nurtured a string of big firms able to hold their own in Europe, but at home there is growing concern that monopolies are stifling the economy.

Consumer protection groups say monopolies and cartels are inflating prices and restricting trade. "There are monopolies and regulated prices throughout the economy," says political journalist Aarno Lahtinen.

Situated between the Soviet Union and the welfare state of Sweden, Finland (population five million) is sometimes called a free capitalist country between socialist neighbours.

Aided by a strong stock market and an appreciating currency, there are now 12 Finnish companies in Europe's top 500 by market capitalisation, according to the London Financial Times.

"Capitalist definitely," says Mr. Lahtinen of his native land, "but not free market."

Transport is completely regulated, he says, while paper, construction and pharmaceutical companies operate cartels.

Energy, broadcasting, sugar manufacture, meat processing and the dairy industry are all monopolies, he says, while in the engineering industry a number of companies have grown so large that they have virtual monopoly powers.

Criticism of previously sanctioned monopolies has centred on recent attacks on the state-owned oil company, Neste, the only Finnish organisation allowed to import oil.

Finns are paying the highest average pre-tax fuel prices in Western Europe, according to September statistics produced by Shell International, although the country buys crude, principally from the Soviet Union, at world market prices.

The difference, 16 per cent above the Western European average, is too great to be explained by higher freight costs due to Finland's distant location, say energy industry sources.

In a letter to industrialists and politicians in September, industry ministry official Pentti Viita said Neste was headed for crisis because of blind diversification into unprofitable fields, paid for by excessive prices for refined oil.

Fostering competition is a stated aim of the present coalition government, the first ever to mention competition in its programme. A new law now before parliament seeks to broaden the definitions of harmful restrictions on trade.

"At least it would set up a binding tribunal," says competition ombudsman Olavi Vayrynen. At

present his office has no sanctions at its disposal.

"Although tendering cartels are forbidden by Finnish law other cartel agreements are sanctioned unless proved contrary to the public good."

"But the new law is not anti-trust legislation," said Mr. Vayrynen. "There's still an upper limit on how large a market share one company may hold."

Mr. Vayrynen has been pushing for the right to investigate mergers and is particularly alarmed at the dozens of takeovers this year in the construction industry.

But he sees no prospect of government action against market concentration. "This is a very conservative country when it comes to the rights of business," he said.

Regulation is also deeply entrenched in communications. The Finnish Broadcasting Company is sole holder of the licence to broadcast television and radio programmes. Delivery of mail is assigned by law to the postal authority.

Mr. Vayrynen also complains about the regulation of transport. Bus routes and road haulage are regulated by the Ministry of Communications which fixes fares and prevents overlapping or competing routes.

Finnair controls aviation and, through its subsidiaries, a large part of the package holiday trade. It has strenuously resisted cheaper scheduled air fares.

Taxi routes are so strictly controlled and fares so high that the black market value of a transferable taxi permit in Helsinki is said to be 400,000 finnmaks (\$ 65,000).

Restrictive agreements are permitted among Finnish companies tendering abroad. "The rather Jesuitical philosophy is that cartels between exporters can be useful," Mr. Vayrynen says.

But there is growing criticism of the use of official regulations to protect Finnish firms from imports, particularly from Finland's largest trading partner, the Soviet Union.

Trade officials say that, with Finnish-Soviet trade conducted on a barter basis, export growth has been prevented by the problem in finding Soviet goods for import.

According to building industry sources, some Soviet building materials are superior to and much cheaper than Finnish products. But, says Mr. Lahtinen, Soviet cement imports have run foul of spurious specifications set by Finnish officials in cooperation with the two domestic cement makers.

Some economic analysts charge it is monopolies and cartels that have given the Finns the highest salaries and highest prices in the north of Europe.

THE LITERARY CORNER

Fear Abides in the works of Ibrahim Al-Absi

THE PHYSICAL configuration of Ibrahim Al-Absi, the Jordanian writer, is an incarnation of fear in a Shakespearean play or that of an evil character in an Egyptian movie. But when the jovial writer is faced with this observation, he opens his eyes and answers: "This is how a short story writer should look: bald, short, dark complexioned and stout." He also adds, "One of my fellow writers once remarked that a short story writer should not be handsome, but rather, he should look like Bernard Shaw's Bluntchli in *Arms and the Man*."

Ibrahim Al-Absi was born in Al-Dawaymah/Hebron in 1945. He works as a teacher in the public schools of Jordan. He started publishing his short stories in *Al-Difa* and *Amman Al-Masa'* newspapers. His stories are published in the Jordanian and Arab literary magazines. He also published three story collections: "The Grey Rain" (1977), "The Third Alternative" (1981), and "Enemies of Birds-children stories" (1984).

In pursuit of fear in the works of Ibrahim Al-Absi, I elected to present today a short story entitled "The Third Alternative," which was published in the Lebanese magazine "Al-Adab, the literature, the Iraqi magazine" "Al-Aqlam" (the pen), and was translated and published in the Soviet Magazine of Artistic Lit-

erature, edition II, in 1983. I will also trace some obvious inhibitions of fear in another short story entitled "The Grey Rain."

The plot in the "Third Alternative" is common knowledge to every Arab, let alone the Palestinians; it is extensively handled in the Palestinian and Jordanian literature. Abdullah Thiab, a Palestinian peasant, accomplishes his dream by marrying a city girl whom the author calls Maleehah (beautiful) — a name he often gives to his short story heroines. Through this "holy" matrimony, the author symbolically unites the village and the city in the face of evil forces. Haj Abdul Majeed, the chieftain of the village, starts plotting against Abdullah the moment he lays his eyes on Maleehah. The former abducts the bride and adds her to his household collection. He also expropriates Abdullah's land and sells it to the Jews. Abdullah tries to resist but he winds up in the prison of Sarafand. The poor fellow could not bear that: losing the wife (the lover) and the land (the most frequented subject in Palestinian poetry and prose).

The leading character spends five years of his life in the prison reminiscing and preparing to act:

"The day I came back with Maleehah, all people came out to see her. The women clapped their chests out of

jealousy and astonishment; the men gasped out of jealousy and admiration; and the boys roamed around singing for the beautiful bride."

Having spent this so long a time in prison, and remembering Maleehah and the land, the afflicted peasant decides to escape despite all the difficulties and hazards reserved for him if he tries:

"When the sun rose, Abdullah Thiab was leaving Sarafand behind him. He started running across the empty and muddy land, with only one warm voice inside him, which grew bigger and bigger and ascended to his lips, 'The rifle.'"

The Soviets, in my humble opinion, have translated this particular short story, not only because it poses the very important issue of resistance, but because it hits upon the universal issue of fear. The author succeeded in utilising his creative and carefully selected language and portrayed this universal issue which normally abides with the oppressed:

"Since our wedding night, fear over Maleehah overwhelmed me. Our town shows no mercy. It is true they are good: they know no perfidy or back stabbing, but fear is still their main concern: fear from everything you see — a my-

In Al-Absi's short story entitled, "The Grey Rain," in which he successfully alludes to the Palestinian emigration and everlasting struggle with the Zionist foe, fear is associated with the coming of the ghoul (intruding ogre) to a peaceful, quiet and content village:

"One night in our village, while I was watching the night and the rain through the window, an intermittent, wild howling hit my ears. The dreadful howling soon transformed into ferocious yelling which monstrously echoed in the darkness. My body biological bird alighting and hatching in every corner and in every curve. You find it painted on all the worn-out walls and inscribed in the eyes of children and women; the fear that the town inherited from the Ottoman reign, and which multiplied when the English came: fear from everything and over anything; fear from drought which sojourned as a heavy guest for seven years; fear from epidemics which had harvested great numbers of people; fear from thieves, brigands and the unannounced visits of the English cavalry, searching for bulls; fear from strangers passing by the road; fear from the morose rocks inhabiting the village mountains; and finally, fear from Haj Abdul Majeed, the Sheikh of the town and its absolute ruler."

quivered with fear. Our town had never known the ghoul's before. Terrified and almost breathless, I dashed into my father's room. He too 'was wide awake: he was sitting on his mattress, smoking, his pipe. His looks seemed unusually frozen."

In another reference, Al-Absi associates fear with rain, for the ghoul came to town while it was raining:

"I no longer feel happy when I see the rain. Stickling to my room. I feel proscribed by fear; my room is proscribed, my home is proscribed, and the whole village is proscribed."

Oppressed by fear, and in many cases oppressed by oppression itself, or oppression and fear sometimes exchange places although they are the best of twins. Al-Absi now asks for help:

I am calling 'for help, but the city is asleep, and nobody will help me. I find myself in a moment of despair. I open my mouth wide and cry: very scared, I cry, I cry like a frightened man in the dark, who finds himself walking amidst hills, trees, darkness, and caves. My yelling comes out as if it were coming out of a mythological mouth: the kind of yelling that sends terror into my veins, and I cannot stop it."

Reviewing all the works of Ibrahim Al-Absi, one can safely trace the foot-steps of fear and oppression and find ex-

licit references to them. There is always the portrayal of abject poverty that even some Jordanian critics did not believe it ever existed (an obvious incident is a mother dividing a boiled egg into four pieces to suffice four children for their lunch meal). But why is Al-Absi so obsessed with fear, oppression and, in many instances, poverty? I think the answer is quite clear if one considers the inhuman living conditions which the author, among millions of others, lived through thanks to the Israelis. The refugee camp is almost a permanent locale for Al-Absi's stories. True, Al-Absi is inhibited with fear and oppression, although consciously and physically he seems to be free from them, but he can never be ranked with the pessimistic, passive and submissive writers. Fear has always played a positive role in his life and works — sometimes a source of inspiration. Nowhere in his works does he lose hope or faith; on the contrary, he ends most of his stories inciting his people to resort to military struggle against their historical and cultural enemy as the only means of liberation.

Away from fear, I find Al-Absi a short story writer who possesses a talent of story telling. Therefore, I find it my duty to call on Ibrahim Al-Absi to utilise this talent in writing novels and plays.

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's Corner

Happy birthday, your Majesty

I DON'T know how one feels when one blows one's 49 birthday candles, not having reached that age yet.

But what I am sure of is that a birthday is the occasion for each one of us to weigh up one's life.

A young boy, a student at Victoria College of Alexandria, used to see his trousers because he couldn't afford to buy new ones. A young man, not yet 17 years old, who dreamt of holidays at the end of his school year near the Lac Leman, became a king.

A young king woke up one day thinking that from now on, all his life he will have to take crucial decisions that will affect his people and his country.

A king took in hand that day a small country which had not yet reached adulthood and brought it up to maturity.

A man who was not spared the worries of life since the day he received a wound in his heart and saw his grandfather agonising, going through numerous attempts on his life.

A king of 49 years of age and 32 years of reign can look today backwards and be proud of what he achieved in his life. As he can confront the future with confidence and wisdom.

I am personally proud to belong to a country ruled by this king. And each time we are caught as it were in a difficulty, each time our neighbours or others bomb us with threats ... I feel confident because he is there.

Happy birthday, your Majesty.

De Beauvoir reviews 'second sex' progress

By Mary Ellen Bortin

Reuser

PARIS — In the space of one generation women have made great strides toward equality, but buried deep inside most men the "macho" beast still lurks — such is the verdict of Simone de Beauvoir 35 years after she published a pioneering feminist study.

Her monumental work, "The Second Sex," planted the seeds of the modern women's movement.

To mark the anniversary, French Television will screen a four-part series based on the book next month featuring Ms. Beauvoir and other personalities including Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, American feminist Kate Millett and writer Norman Mailer.

"Even if men do not understand women's situation, today they are obliged to pretend to understand," Ms. Beauvoir said during a rare public appearance to discuss the television series.

"In the film, you can tell they are fundamentally macho but feel they have to make statements to cover up their sexism."

Relaxed but still able to give a sharp retort, the 76-year-old Beauvoir said she had not changed her mind about much of what she wrote in "The Second Sex" since it was published in 1949.

"I simply take note that much has changed in the direction I had hoped," she said, her bright blue eyes sparkling.

Mr. Beauvoir, who with her companion Jean-Paul Sartre was a leading figure in the heyday of French existentialism in the 1940s, scandalised fellow intellectuals with her unorthodox assessment of the female condition in "The Second Sex."

"One is not born, but rather becomes a woman," she wrote in the book. A wide-angle exploration of sexism viewed through anatomy, history, psychology, sociology, economics and literary criticism, it examined why this has always been a man's world.

With three-and-a-half decades now separating her from the uproar sparked by the book, Ms. Beauvoir was able to laugh about attacks from even such friends as French existentialist writer and philosopher Albert Camus, originally from Algeria, who accused her of ridiculing the French male.

"Camus said I was a French disease. But of course being a Med-

iterranean, he was totally macho," she said.

Ms. Beauvoir said the television film showed that women today have outdistanced the critics, reducing inequality through laws although they still faced obstacles in many areas of life.

"Many things have changed," she said, singling out the legalisation of contraception and abortion as perhaps the biggest advances to date.

"The fact of being able to plan births is something very important for all women," said Ms. Beauvoir, who had no children in order to devote herself to writing.

"They can now have careers they formerly couldn't have dreamed of."

"But many things still remain to be achieved — equal pay for equal work may be legal on paper but it is easy for employers to cheat, the chances for girls and boys are not the same, many careers are still closed to women."

She said problem were particularly acute in many areas of the "Third World," such as India, where bride-burning occurs when the groom's family is dissatisfied with the dowry, or Africa, where excision (female circumcision) is a common practice.

Ms. Beauvoir's film measures the progress made by a generation of women in four hour-long segments reviewing how girls are socialised, marriage and maternity, myths surrounding "the weaker sex" and prospects at work.

"I am not a journalist," Ms. Beauvoir said. "The film is rather a conversation between certain women and myself."

"When I talk about the condition of prostitutes, I let them speak on their own behalf, or when I talk about the problem of excision, I let the black women involved speak for themselves."

The film promises to unleash nearly as much controversy as the book, counterpoising appearances by figures as diametrically opposed as French Women's Rights Minister Yvette Roudy and outspoken anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly of the United States.

Directed by Josee Dayan, who made a film on Ms. Beauvoir's life five years ago, the series based on "The Second Sex" will play during prime time on the TF-1 network from Nov. 14. Ms. Beauvoir says it is designed to speak to the widest possible public.

THEATRE Dark family secrets make for an American tragedy

By Ned Chaillet

LONDON — Language spins out of Sam Shepard with the force of necessity. The characters in his plays have "passions they must communicate. Since words are never enough, it is the actions of his characters that deliver the visceral kicks."

When "Fool for Love" opens, the seediness of the motel room on the edge of the Mojave Desert is desperation in itself. The woman (Julie Walters) sitting on the iron

bed is rigid with dejection, and the man talking to her is struggling to articulate a kind of reassurance. Eddie (Ian Charleson) promises her that he's not going to leave, but the violence of her emotion only becomes clear when with a single movement she seizes his legs and locks him to the bed. Her silence, the obvious threat of her strength send a chill through the National Cottesloe Theatre.

Mr. Shepard writes about the American family, which he endows with the weight of Greek

myths. In that sense he shares a tradition with Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and Edward Albee. Greek and Roman tragedy, with all their family murders, infidelity, betrayal and serving up of nephews in pies, acquired dignity because the families were royal and because out of that private chaos nations were formed. The American family, particularly for Mr. Shepard, has had to create its own myths and traditions, chasing jobs down interstate highways and stretching

the lines of inheritance across spiralling complications of parenthood and blood ties.

In "Fool for Love," family and passion are one thing, with a half-brother and half-sister locked in an incestuous relationship. Eddie has just driven 2,480 miles — hauling a horse trailer the whole while — to find May. A typical Shepard character is Eddie, who puts flesh on other people's dreams. He is a stuntman for the movies, acting out the skills of the old West while living out a curse, obsession with May. Even his obsession is not quite his own: There is a rich woman in constant pursuit, carrying guns in her ironguns and waiting outside the motel to claim him.

Despite the sometimes wavering accents, this British company stirs up powerful American ghosts in spellbinding acts of violence and love. Peter Gill's production, on a bleak and effective set by Alison Chitty, does not retreat from the harsh words and sudden vicious assaults that the story requires. Each time Eddie or May slams the outside or bathroom doors, the sound could be a cannon shot shaking the theater. When May's friend Martin (David Troughton) bursts in, his tackle carries Eddie across the room. When he attempts to leave, Eddie smashes into the door with his feet to compel Martin to listen to the story of their incestuous love.

Another listener is the Old Man (Tom Watson), the father who ran away when his two women and their children finally met each other. Although he drinks with Eddie and then talks, he is clearly

only symbolically there, the incarnation of an absence. Eddie is only half his son, because unlike his father he cannot stay away from May. Mr. Charleson has 90 per cent of the rage he needs to sustain the fury of the pair, but it is more than enough since Miss Walters has 110 per cent, being fetching, fierce and dangerous all at once.

Mr. Shepard seems to be suggesting that out of this chaos, as out of the chaos of the Greeks, a nation takes shape. The lesson can be read in different ways, for the rough poetry of Mr. Shepard's theatre creates experience and does not deliver sermons. — The Wall Street Journal.



Ancient lane in old Jerusalem — By Jack Kaplanian



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Swedish team ends visit

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The visiting Swedish handicapped sports team ended their matches Wednesday with a track and field meeting at the Jordan University against a Jordanian handicapped team.

Exhibition trials in 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x100m relay races were held between the Swedish team and their Jordanian counterparts as well as discus throwing and shot put.

An atmosphere of excitement, support and competitiveness prevailed throughout the competitions.

The Swedish team also gave an archery display Wednesday to end the meeting.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid attended Wednesday's meeting and distributed medals to all participating in the games.

The Swedish team arrived here on Saturday at the invitation of Prince Ra'd. President of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH). They took part in meetings at the University of Jordan on Monday, Yarmouk University on Tuesday, and ended with Wednesday's meeting. Officializing the competitions were referees from the Jordanian Amateur Athletic Federation.

The Swedish team's visit to Amman was sponsored by 30 Swedish industrial companies. Mr. Kenneth Magnusson, representing LIC company, told the Jordan Times that the idea of having the Swedish team come to Amman was endorsed by Prince Ra'd and Princess Majda who are sponsoring (JSFH), and are after all initiatives concerning the disabled and handicapped in Jordan.

Apparently, Mr. Magnusson, who met Prince Ra'd earlier this

year proposed the idea of having the Swedish team for the handicapped to come to Jordan as this team represents the Swedish national squad, which won 153 medals in the 1984 Olympic Games for the Disabled. This team was invited to Jordan so as to participate in disabled performances, help the JSFH team in gaining experience and also to exhibit Swedish rehabilitation equipment. Therefore Swedish industrial and medical companies sponsored their trip.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Mr. Bjorn Corestav, Swedish team's manager said: "We are enjoying our stay in Amman. Of course we are impressed by the standard of the JSFH, which was only established 3 years ago. The unique incident which impressed our team was when we went to Yarmouk University on Tuesday, we had the chance to see a football game in which the JSFH players themselves participated, players were playing football with sticks, and this kind of sport, we have not seen before."

He insisted that the Jordanian citizens should accept the handicapped as normal citizens who are capable of working and marrying, they should become active members in this society.

He was impressed by the skill and enthusiasm of JSFH team. He also noted that the games were seen by a lot of Jordanian handicapped children which motivated them a lot.

Lars Lofstrom, a member of the

Swedish team told the Jordan Times that the team enjoyed their stay in Amman.

"The JSFH team had the chance to see our equipment, they used it and were convinced about the things a disabled is able to do in these chairs, Mr. Lofstrom added.

He pointed out that the Jordanian handicapped should not be spoiled, but should be treated like normal human beings, all of us should give a chance to the handicapped, help them but do not spoil them."

Mr. Lofstrom told the Jordan Times that he is leaving to Baghdad, where he will promote a medical exhibition and deliver a speech about sport facilities in rehabilitation centres and he shall perform sport activities himself.

Miss Thanna Halasa, a Jordanian member of JSFH team said: "We have gained so much experience from the Swedish team, we had the chance to see the latest rehabilitation equipment, we exchanged ideas with our fellow friends from the Swedish team and we proved that the disabled person is capable of leading a normal life. I wish that we will have more of these activities and meetings with experienced handicapped sports groups."

British group climbs Rum mountains

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four British mountaineers inspired by the famous film production "Lawrence of Arabia", have set themselves on a long trip from England to the rose-pink mountains of Wadi Rum in Jordan only to unravel the marvels which were in store for them.

While watching the film Lawrence of Arabia — part of which was filmed in Wadi Rum, "we saw in the background of some scenes, the mountains of Rum and since then we decided to take the trip and explore these mountains, a mission which took 12 months of preparation," Tony Howard told the Jordan Times.

The four adventurers had contacted the Department of Tourism in Amman to seek assistance and coordination for the trip. The department responded favourably and co-sponsored the trip which is hoped to turn the mountains of Rum into another tourist attraction, particularly for mountaineers.

The mountaineers who have just returned from a five-week adventure in the mountains of Rum, said that they spent the first two weeks exploring the mountains and getting to know the area. "Later we made five im-

portant climbs which we can simply describe as spectacular and unprecedented," Howard who with his three companions have more than 20 years of experience in climbing said.

He said that climbing Rum mountains was not quite easy as they expected but "the difficulty is part of the excitement." The group spend three months each year outside England exploring mountains all over the world. In the Arab World, they climbed mountains in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Sudan.

Describing their experience in mountaineering in Rum mountains, the four adventurers said the biggest challenge was Jabal Rum which is the highest at 900 metres. "We reached places no one has ever reached. We reached intriguing and fascinating high desert areas — the summit is a plateau where we found trees and wildlife — something we never saw before throughout our mountaineering experience," Howard said.

"When you reach the plateau you would find a six splitting the mountain and you can spend days in finding another path to lead you to the summit — which is our knowledge, there is nothing like it in the world," he said, describing the unique experience of the four-member group.

The group also includes Alan Baker, Diane Taylor and Mick Shaw. They spoke to the Jordan Times about domes of rock and arches of stone they saw on their way to the summit of Jabal Rum. They took photographs and drew maps passages in the mountains which they will be sending to the department of tourism from London.

On their adventurous mission, they were accompanied first by a guide from the tourism department. They were also supplied by a four-wheel drive vehicle to get them through difficult tracks.

The group spoke enthusiastically of their experience with bedouins in Wadi Rum whom they described as "welcoming and friendly and incredibly helpful. It seems they are the only ones in Jordan who know their way in the desert," Howard said.

The mountaineers are leaving Jordan Thursday to return next spring or summer for more climbing and exploration in the Wadi Rum mountains. "We hope to encourage mountaineers in Europe and the U.S. to visit Wadi Rum and share with us our experience," Howard told the Jordan Times. The group will be publishing in magazines specialised in the sport about their unique experience in Jordan.

England trounces Turkey 8-0 in qualifier

ISTANBUL (R) — England, inspired by a driving three-goal performance from captain Bryan Robson, moved a step closer towards qualifying for the World Cup finals by demolishing Turkey 8-0 in their European Group Three tie Wednesday.

Three goals in the first half and five in the second left the Turks stunned on their first encounter with England.

Robson put England ahead with a brave header after 13 minutes, scrambled the third after 44 minutes and completed his hat-trick with a solo goal midway through the second half.

The other scorers in England's biggest away win since May 1964, when they beat the United States 10-0 in New York, were striker Tony Woodcock and winger John Barnes with two apiece and

right-back Viv Anderson. After their 5-0 thrashing of Finland at Wembley last month, England top their group with a maximum four points and an emphatic 13-0 goal difference.

England established an early superiority and never lost their grip in a match that kept Peter Shilton could almost have played in an armchair.

England opened the scoring after 13 minutes of constant pressure on the Turkish defence following a cross by John Barnes. Viv Anderson nodded on to Bryan Robson who headed past goalkeeper Yasar Duran from close range.

Four minutes later, Tony Woodcock took advantage of a mistake by Turkish midfielder Rasit Cetiner and scored with a left-foot shot on the run.

England made it 3-0 after 44 minutes when Williams left Duran standing with a shot that hit a post and rebounded for Robson to score.

Turkey had little left to offer in the second half and John Barnes quickly added England's fourth and fifth goals.

Just four minutes after the break, he took a cross from Robson and scored with a first-time shot at the far post. In the 56th minute, he was able to stumble the ball into the net after a challenge near the penalty spot with Duran.

Robson scored his third and England's sixth when he ran on to a through pass from Wilkins and ran on to score with a low left-foot shot.

The handful of England fans in the packed stadium had almost stopped counting by the time

Woodcock made it 7-0, beating Duran and a defender after receiving a long ball from Anderson.

Shilton faced his first real challenge in the 85th minute when he had to save from Erdal Keser. England responded immediately with Anderson making it 8-0 a minute later with a header from a corner by Barnes.

It was England's biggest victory since they beat Luxembourg 9-0 at Wembley in December 1982 and provided emphatic evidence that they are determined to make certain of qualifying for the Mexico finals in 1986 without mishap.

But any judgment of the quality of England's performance must be tempered by the desperately poor opposition provided by Turkey, who lacked strength, team-work and determination.

THE Daily Crossword

by Marjorie J. De Witt

ACROSS
1 Sign of a saint
5 Thunder units
10 Maul
12 Spider
14 Skiffish
15 Mata —
16 Wager earner
18 Unlocked
19 Main dishes
20 Kind of fire
22 Before prel.
24 Almost
25 Greatest
26 Wreath, old
31 Perch
32 Wire nails
33 Baseball's Mel
36 Loudness unit
37 Animal condition
38 Concerning
39 Corroded
40 Bus passengers
41 Dressed hastily
42 Pines
44 — upon style
45 Hare at
47 Scarlett's home
48 "To catch the way"
51 Aglow
52 Statueque
57 Currency transmitter
59 Inquiries
60 Ham it up
61 Cattle long ago
62 Legal matter
63 Sincere
65 — Major
66 Blow a horn
67 Phrase re power of wealth
68 Chemical soft
69 Haspicks
70 Farm structure
71 Tolu or lupulo
72 Carp for pool
73 Minors
74 Flower
75 Noah's craft
76 Quay

DOWN
2 Sign of a saint
3 Thunder units
4 Maul
6 Spider
7 Skiffish
8 Mata —
9 Wager earner
11 Unlocked
13 Main dishes
14 Kind of fire
16 Before prel.
17 Almost
18 Greatest
19 Wreath, old
21 Perch
23 Wire nails
24 Baseball's Mel
26 Loudness unit
27 Animal condition
28 Concerning
29 Corroded
30 Bus passengers
31 Dressed hastily
32 Pines
34 — upon style
35 Hare at
37 Scarlett's home
38 "To catch the way"
39 Aglow
40 Statueque
41 Currency transmitter
42 Inquiries
43 Ham it up
44 Cattle long ago
45 Legal matter
46 Sincere
48 — Major
49 Blow a horn
50 Phrase re power of wealth
51 Chemical soft
52 Haspicks
53 Farm structure
54 Tolu or lupulo
55 Carp for pool
56 Minors
58 Flower
59 Noah's craft
60 Quay

8 Lower's music
9 The folding stuff
11 Of a neighborhood
12 Leucocyst
15 Dike, Irene and
16 Enigma
17 Lavan
18 Spanish bay
21 Sincere
25 — Major
26 Blow a horn
27 Phrase re power of wealth
28 Chemical soft
29 Haspicks
30 Farm structure
31 Tolu or lupulo
32 Carp for pool
33 Minors
34 Flower
35 Noah's craft
36 Quay

43 Nobleman
44 Supplicant
45 Ancient Arab poet
46 Aspid
48 Monks' lodge
49 Heavy volume
50 — in the line
52 Hatbox
53 Mine entrance
54 Hawaiian state
55 Wreath
56 — in the line

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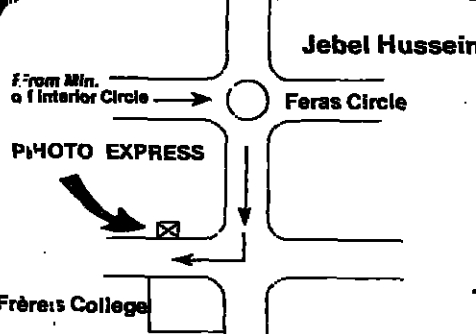
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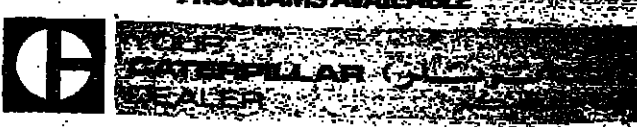
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CHRISTINE
(Colour)
3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema
ZAHARAN
Tel: 23171
ROBIN HOOD
Colour
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(Colour)
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1- PROFESSOR PYARELAL
2- FOR YOUR EYES ONLY
Colour
Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 22117
GOLD RAIDERS
(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-7

Managua says U.S. chose west coast for invasion

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan officials said Wednesday the United States had chosen two north western provinces, close to Honduras, to launch a possible assault as tanks and armoured personnel carriers took up positions in the capital.

Some 20,000 young Nicaraguans, who had been due to help with the coffee harvest, are receiving infantry training, and the army has called a state of alert because of the government's fears of a U.S. invasion.

U.S. officials have denied that any invasion is planned. Commandante Carlos Nunez, State Council president and a member of the directorate of the ruling Sandinista Party, told the Nicaraguan News Agency Tuesday night the government had information that U.S. military strategists had chosen Leon and Chinandega provinces to launch a possible invasion.

He said the provinces were of both economic and military importance. Close to the border with Honduras, the main U.S. ally in

Central America, they are centres of the cotton crop. Nicaragua's main port, Corinto, is in Chinandega province.

The provinces are near the Gulf of Fonseca where the U.S. is holding naval manoeuvres with Honduras and El Salvador.

The number of Soviet Bloc military advisers in Nicaragua exceeds 2,500, a United States government aide said in Madrid Tuesday.

Otto Reich, a State Department adviser on Central America, told Spanish Senate (upper house) Latin American and Foreign Relations Committees the U.S. calculated that there were between 2,500 and 3,500 such advisers in Nicaragua.

Mr. Reich said the arms build-up in Nicaragua had reached pro-

portions that Washington could not ignore. The country's forces far exceeded its defence needs, he said.

Nicaragua had acquired 120 T-54 and T-55 tanks and eight modern MI-24 helicopters among other weapons from the Soviet Union, he said.

Mr. Reich said he believed Spain, along with other European countries, was disappointed with developments in Nicaragua and added that Washington viewed positively the Madrid Socialist government's decision not to send observers to the Nov. 4 elections there.

Mr. Reich said President Reagan had no plans to use force against Nicaragua but reiterated the president's statement that he could not be bound to rule out definitively any possibility.

Talking to reporters after his session with the Senate committees, Mr. Reich said: "We are not interested in using force."

The United States has warned Managua it will take whatever steps are necessary to prevent an

attack on its friends in Central America.

A statement Tuesday by Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch that the United States would respond with whatever assistance was necessary to a Nicaraguan attack on Honduras or El Salvador came as Managua took fresh military steps to prepare for what it says was an imminent U.S. invasion.

Mr. Burch and other official spokesmen at the White House and State Department continued to insist that these charges were nonsense and accused Managua of giving way to hysteria.

But they condemned what they said was an unprecedented build-up of Soviet Bloc arms beyond Nicaragua's legitimate defence needs and said additional Soviet ships were on their way with more weapons on board.

One senior official likened the build-up to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and said Washington would prevent a permanent Soviet military presence in Nicaragua as it did in Cuba.

Prague recalls envoy from Vienna after row

VIENNA (R) — Communist Czechoslovakia has temporarily withdrawn its ambassador from Vienna and alleged a hate campaign by Austria in a row over an incident when a man was shot while crossing their common border.

The official Ceteke News Agency, reporting this, said Czechoslovakia was "surprised and gravely concerned over the made-up and hateful anti-Czechoslovak campaign in Austria waged even by some official representatives."

A row broke out between the two states over an incident on Nov. 6 when the body of a Czechoslovak was found some 450 metres inside Austria with a bullet in the back.

Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz accused Prague of a grave border violation, saying Austria had evidence Czechoslovak Border Guards followed the man into Austrian territory and shot him there to stop him escaping from his country.

Prague media have said guards shot the man, identified as Frantisek Faktor, 33, in a no-go zone on Oct. 30 when he ignored an order to halt.

Austrian Charge d'Affaires

Heinrich Querner was Wednesday summoned to the Prague Foreign Ministry, which said Czechoslovak Ambassador Marek Venuta was being recalled, Ceteke said.

Prague's Deputy Foreign Minister Jaromir Johannes told Mr. Querner an "artificially created anti-Czechoslovak atmosphere was in violation of normal good-neighbourly relations," the Czechoslovak agency said.

The minister said that it "did not create the necessary conditions for the Czechoslovak ambassador to remain in Austria."

Austria's ambassador in Prague was in Vienna when the dispute arose and officials here said they did not know when he would return to his post.

Austria formally protested over the incident last week after police said they had found 30 cartridge cases and a spent bullet of Czechoslovak origin well inside Austrian territory.

Czechoslovakia has rejected the protest.

Hundreds of Czechoslovaks attempt to flee every year to neutral Austria, which treats them as political refugees and helps them to resettle in the West.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Father jailed for strangling 7 children

TULLE, France (R) — A poor French farmer who strangled seven of his newborn children was jailed for eight years Tuesday and his wife was given a five-year suspended sentence. Jean-Pierre Leymarie, 45, and his wife Rolande, 32, told the court they had never heard of modern contraceptive methods and killed the babies during their 16-year marriage without medical assistance at their small remote farm in Saint-Bonnet-La-Riviere, central France. Each time Jean-Pierre cut the umbilical cord with a pocket knife. Their first baby, a son, died in infancy although a daughter and son who followed are now aged 13 and 11. Two of the next nine children died accidentally and the others were strangled with a towel by the father, who buried them near a barn. Neighbours from a nearby village said they only gradually realised that Rolande had been hiding her pregnancies. They alerted police, who found a mass grave.

Picasso painting sells for \$4.29m

NEW YORK (R) — Picasso's "Femme Assise Au Chapeau" sold for \$4.29 million to a private collector bidding on the telephone at Christie's Auction House Tuesday night. The painting, on loan to the Tate Gallery in London since 1958, was sold by order of the trustees of the Edward James Foundation. The sale did not break the record for a Picasso painting — \$5.3 million paid for "Yo" in May 1981 at Sotheby's in London.

Indonesian council bans frog eating

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's Muslim Council has ruled that Muslims in the world's largest Islamic country may not eat frogs but are allowed to raise them for commercial purposes. The ruling was handed down after a two-day closed door meeting held after government calls to increase frog leg exports to boost national oil export revenues. The council decided that Muslims are "allowed to breed the frog only for taking benefits from it, but not to eat it."

Son buys late father's painting

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chicago man has paid \$253,000 for a painting owned by his late father. The buyer, who identified himself as Scott Hodes, said he bought the surrealist work by a Cuban painter because he wanted to give it to his wife, who is Cuban-born. The painting was the property of the elder Hodes' estate. It was not clear why the son had to bid for the painting. Hodes paid the second highest price of the sale Monday for "Mofumba Ce Qui Importe" by Wifredo Lam. Giorgio de Chirico's "Interiore Metafisico" sold for \$385,000 to an anonymous American. Christie's said 80 per cent of the 62-work surrealist collection for \$2,629,165. Hodes was a prominent Chicago attorney, who died in 1980.

Black American writer dies

ALICANTE, Spain (R) — Black American novelist Chester Himes, who lived in Spain for the past 15 years, died Monday at his home near here, his wife said Tuesday. He was 75. Himes, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, had been seriously ill for the past few months, she told reporters. The writer left the United States and moved to Paris in the 1950s. His thrillers such as "Cotton Comes to Harlem" and "Blind Man With a Pistol" featured black heroes.

British miners continue to drift back to work

LONDON (R) — The drift back to work by striking British miners continued Wednesday with the state-run coal board reporting a full turnout for the morning shift at some pits.

The board said another 845 miners had ended their eight-month strike over pit closures Wednesday, bringing the number who had returned to work in the past three days to around 3,700.

The board estimates that 57,000 of Britain's 180,000 miners are now working, a figure hotly contested by the miners' union.

At Berham Colliery in North Wales, where nobody was working until the beginning of last week, nearly all the men turned up for work Wednesday, a board spokesman said. Last Thursday

Berham Miners voted narrowly to stay on strike.

The spokesman said the return to work would have a psychological impact on other miners, accelerating the collapse of the strike.

Pickets outside pits in west Yorkshire threw stones at police and there were scuffles outside the Cynheidre Colliery in South Wales. But police said the trouble was not as serious as the coordinated violence seen at the beginning of the week.

The board said striking miners had grown despondent after the breakdown of peace talks last week and had been encouraged to return to work by the board's offer of a Christmas bonus.

Italy considers setting up rapid deployment force

ROME (R) — Italy is considering setting up a rapid deployment force as part of measures to meet what it sees as an increased threat from the Mediterranean, according to Chief of General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Lamberto Bartolucci.

He made clear at a briefing for NATO correspondents Tuesday that the study of such a force was linked to what Italy saw as growing risks on its southern, Mediterranean flank.

"The change in the geo-strategic situation of the whole Mediterranean area has forced the alliance, and Italy in particular, to review some plans," he said.

Gen. Bartolucci said new Soviet

weapons such as the long-range Backfire bomber, and the substantial Soviet naval presence in the Mediterranean, increased Italy's vulnerability there.

He also cited what he called the unstable situation in the Mediterranean area. He did not specifically refer to the Middle East or North Africa.

Italy's traditional defence posture has envisaged, in time of war, a land assault by Warsaw Pact forces on its north eastern frontier with Yugoslavia.

Gen. Bartolucci said: "In the south the threat has increased considerably from an air-naval point of view."

Filipino mayor shot dead

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Zamboanga city Mayor Cesar Climaco, one of the Philippines most colourful political opposition figures, was shot dead Wednesday by an unknown gunman, police said.

Police said Mr. Climaco was shot in the back of the head while inspecting damage to a nightclub which burned down during the night in his southern Philippines city.

A spokesman said the assailant got away.

"We have witnesses but no suspects," the spokesman said.

Mr. Climaco, 68, was elected to the Philippines National As-

sembly as an opposition candidate but said he would not take his seat until his term as mayor ended in 1986.

He seldom had a bodyguard, unlike most local or important national political figures, and had been on an early morning tour of the city on his motorcycle, associates said.

In Manila, the Presidential Palace said President Ferdinand Marcos had ordered acting chief of staff Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos to go to Zamboanga to direct investigations into the killing and to convey personally the president's sympathy and condolences to Mr. Climaco's family.

Newest Australian party starts campaign

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's newest political party launched its Dec. 1 election campaign at dawn here Wednesday as an opinion poll showed that its anti-nuclear stand could embarrass a re-elected Labour government.

Leaders of the Nuclear Disarmament Party (NDP), watched by a group of supporters, released 30 doves at sunrise into a clear Sydney sky to symbolise the peace they seek through a ban on all nuclear weapons.

The party, formed after anti-nuclear rallies throughout the country in April this year, is putting up candidates for Senate (upper house) seats in most Australian states.

The latest Morgan Gallup opinion poll showed that the party's projected Senate vote had climbed dramatically from three to eight per cent at the expense of Labour votes.

The party in New South Wales, the most populous state, has estimated that it needs about 12.5 per cent of votes to become more than an irritant and win a seat.

Magazine blasts Peking over attitude to Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — A leading Soviet journal Wednesday launched a scathing attack on China's foreign policy, saying it was not interested in better links with Moscow and was trying to sow dissension among Soviet Bloc allies.

The monthly International Life said Peking had moved steadily to the right in its foreign affairs strategy, eliminating ideological elements and pursuing a course which damaged the cause of Communism.

"The most recent statements by Chinese leaders... leave no doubts that this course, just as before, has an anti-Soviet direction," it added.

The article, one of the strongest attacks on Peking for many months, said Moscow had made intense efforts to improve relations but that China had shown little real interest and blocked progress by making unrealistic demands.

Although Chinese leaders claimed they wanted balanced relations with all the major powers, they in fact showed preference towards the United States and its

allies and always imposed pre-conditions in dealing with Moscow, it said.

Charging that Peking effectively aided and abetted "imperialism", the journal said "China was trying to undermine the Soviet Bloc alliance by cultivating close links with East European states and turning them against Moscow."

The article was published following a fifth round of talks on normalising ties between the two powers in Peking.

But it appeared to have been submitted before the talks started and Western diplomats said Wednesday that it reflected general Soviet frustrations with China rather than specific grievances resulting from the latest contacts.

The five rounds of negotiations have improved trade, sporting and cultural links between the two powers but made little progress in overcoming barriers to better political ties.

After taking a cautious line towards Peking for two years, the Soviet press has become more critical in recent months.

Executions help cut crime in China, official says

PEKING (R) — China's secretive Public Security Ministry held an unprecedented press conference Wednesday to discuss a big crackdown on crime in which hundreds of people have been executed during the past year.

"In a country like ours with one billion people it is good to have some people executed so as to educate the others," ministry spokesman Wang Jingrong told foreign and Chinese newsmen.

But he declined to give figures for the total number of people arrested or executed. The London-based human rights group Amnesty International has estimated at least 5,000 people have died, while some foreign jurists have put the figure as high as 10,000.

The anti-crime campaign was launched in August last year. Mr. Wang said 70,000 offenders were handed over to the police by local residents in the first 12 months while 120,000 other law-breakers surrendered voluntarily.

He said China's policy of dealing with crime by handing out harsh punishment had helped cut the crime rate from eight to five offences per 10,000 people.

For China's population of more than one billion, this means a fall in the number of crimes reported from 800,000 to half a million a year.

A top Chinese judge said in April the anti-crime blitz was necessary because criminal activity had swollen to such a level that it was seriously threatening the state.

The standing committee of the National People's Congress (Parliament) passed legislation extending the death penalty to a whole range of crimes including rape, embezzlement, smuggling, drug dealing and taking bribes.

Mr. Wang blamed the rise in the crime rate before the crackdown on the continuing bad influence of the 1966-76 Maoist Cultural Revolution.

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14 storey Jakarta building on fire

JAKARTA (R) — A huge fire raged out of control Wednesday through one of Jakarta's best known buildings, housing a department store and government offices.

Scores of firemen battled the blaze at the 14-storey Sarinah Building in the heart of the Indonesian capital. But 15 hours after the fire started flames were still roaring upwards and black smoke was spewing from windows.

Officials said they believed no one was trapped by the blaze, the fifth major fire in Jakarta over the past few weeks, and no serious casualties had been reported.

Police cordoned off the area, keeping back onlookers as debris

crashed into Jakarta's main street, Jalan Thamrin.

It was the second fire to hit the store group in less than a month. A branch in southern Jakarta was gutted on Oct. 22 with millions of dollars worth of damage.

That fire was followed by a blaze which triggered a series of explosions at a marine ammunition magazine, killing at least 15 people on Oct. 29. On the same night as the explosions, fire broke out at a Chinese-owned restaurant and night club.

Three days ago another blaze destroyed offices and shops at the Hotel Kartika Plaza in the centre of the capital. No casualties were reported.

4 Irish journalists die in air crash

EASTBOURNE, England (R) — Four leading Irish journalists taking part in a race to bring new wine from Paris to Dublin were killed when their light plane crashed in heavy rain in a forest in southern England Tuesday night.

All eight passengers and the pilot died when the twin-engined plane hit a hill and exploded in flames outside this south coast resort midway between France and Ireland, a police spokesman said.

The Dublin company which chartered the plane said those aboard included Niall Hanley, editor of Ireland's best-selling afternoon newspaper, the Evening Herald.

A company spokesman said John Feeney, the Herald's columnist, Kevin Marron, former

editor of the Sunday World and latterly its columnist, and Tony Heneghan, diarist for the Irish Independent newspaper, were also on board.

They were taking part in an annual race to bring the first of France's Beaujolais crop to Ireland.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Stinson

ORDINAL ORDER

By James E. Hines, Jr.

ACROSS

- 1 Concocting
- 2 Captain played by Errol Flynn
- 3 One, formerly
- 4 Gun or pipe
- 5 Close
- 6 Belongs
- 7 Rainbow
- 8 Con. form
- 9 Ed
- 10 Part of an elementary school
- 11 Used
- 12 Three
- 13 To — (pre)
- 14 Car
- 15 Electron tubes
- 16 Indefinite
- 17 Enthusiast
- 18 Contents of a reel
- 19 Cars
- 20 Accord with
- 21 Released

DOWN

- 1 Dove
- 2 Her's "no"
- 3 Excellent
- 4 Once, formerly
- 5 Commence
- 6 He's J.L.
- 7 Toward the mouth
- 8 Up in years
- 9 Conch, e.g.
- 10 Grog
- 11 Staggering
- 12 Riviera resort
- 13 Long sentence?
- 14 Pipes
- 15 — or by
- 16 Plenty
- 17 Normandy river
- 18 Unlaid
- 19 "A boy boy"
- 20 Dispose of
- 21 Lancet or ogee

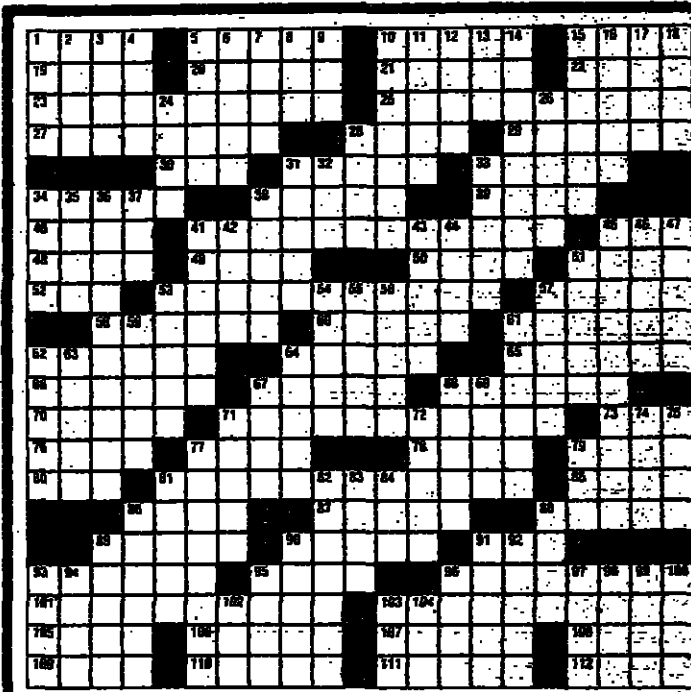
Diagrams

21 x 19, by Neil McCarthy

- 1 Possess
- 2 Homesteadship
- 3 Distinction
- 4 Stomach coils
- 5 Challenge
- 6 Polaris
- 7 Or letter
- 8 Singular occurrence
- 9 Dill
- 10 One ear
- 11 Baseball
- 12 Most accurate
- 13 Locomotive
- 14 Kind of tide
- 15 Example
- 16 AWOL and OPEC
- 17 Sealable
- 18 Sudden sharp pain
- 19 Road dish
- 20 Mothers
- 21 — and
- 22 — and
- 23 — and
- 24 — and
- 25 Spread hay
- 26 Kind of tide
- 27 Example
- 28 Sealable
- 29 Sudden sharp pain
- 30 Road dish
- 31 Mothers
- 32 — and
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- 34 — and
- 35 Locomotive
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- 97 Example
- 98 Sealable
- 99 Sudden sharp pain
- 100 Road dish
- 101 Mothers
- 102 — and
- 103 — and
- 104 — and

DOWN

- 1 Obeyed
- 2 Items of value
- 3 Farming tools
- 4 Work on manuscript
- 5 Inland
- 6 Equate fr.
- 7 Town map
- 8 Singular
- 9 Appeal
- 10 Canaan
- 11 Decadal base
- 12 Most accurate
- 13 Calamity
- 14 Sweeten the
- 15 Lip
- 16 Quorum
- 17 "An apple —"
- 18 Battle and
- 19 Captain
- 20 Balance of trade item
- 21 Algerian port
- 22 Hawaiian state bird
- 23 Jane or Zane
- 24 Unaccompanied performance
- 25 Bird crop
- 26 Far and wide
- 27 River thru the
- 28 Caroline
- 29 Underwear
- 30 Dignity
- 31 Silkworm
- 32 Section abbr.
- 34 Fashion
- 35 Footnote abbr.
- 36 Wooden
- 37 Kola or cashew
- 38 Trudess
- 39 Patchwork
- 40 Patch feature
- 41 One-tenth
- 42 Name of
- 43 Trinity
- 44 Metric measure
- 45 Eye affliction
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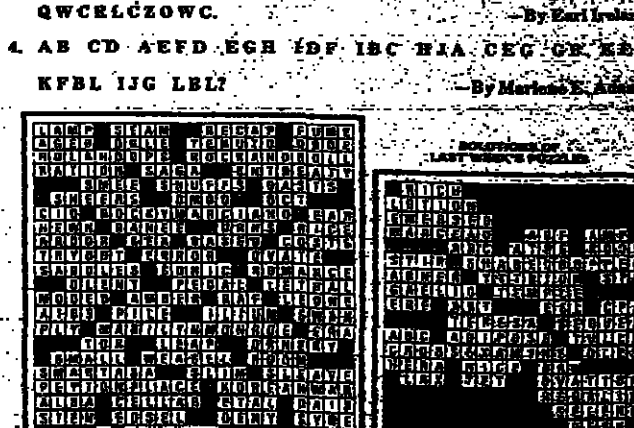


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Row can a pump polar bear bear to be here when he swims out in water?
2. Considering jalapeno peppers and tabasco sauce, there will be a burning.
3. Lover's eyes are rarely at peace when their voices plainly are at war.
4. Cheap balcony seat possibly great for far-sighted sadder.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TIKY 'BANK AY NICKL' NKEC LIM SEC MYK E SWISH WANK E SPETAB SEPTI — By Len Sherry
2. CODYR UYOYRED QSPARY HOPX GREGU GSRZZE. TAY SEE. TRY HOPHOF. HOF — By Lois B. Jones
3. JLLD GTUETJ JEDLA LCGREGUL GUEBO QWYLL YWT QWEWTDITA EZ QZLTETA QWCELCXOWC. — By Kent Jones
4. AS CD AEFZ ECH EDF IBC HIA CEG GY EEF FBEL IJG LBL — By Markedby



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠A6 ♥KQ5 ♦A1093 ♣KQ62
 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with four spades. What action do you take?
 Q